A B Neither of us can boast of the legibility of our penmanship — however having generally considered myself among the best in decyphering hieroglyphics yours gave me but little trouble L W

Town Bluff Liberty County
March 14th 1845

Dr Sir

Yours of 21st June came to hand last Aug. and it may not be inappropriate to offer an apology for so long delay on my part in giving you intelligence of the fact and informing you what course I mean to pursue relative to the propositions set forth in yours and what assistance I can give you towards the completion of the work you have in hand According to my ability I am ready to contribute my aid towards the advancement of any scientific undertaking

When your letter arrived I was absent on a journey to the Colorado which though made for purposes of business was improved to the utmost in the collection of plants which are not found in this section or which I had not before seen

Shortly after my return I suffered a violent attack of sickness from which I was a long time in recovering indeed it left me in so weak a state that I lost the latter part of the summer and all the fall during which I was confined almost the whole time to the house

Since winter set in I have been engaged in studying the Cryptogamias and have made a small collection from a very limited section of country and devoted to the examination of them such time as I could spare from my ordinary avocations and shall continue to improve every opportunity for the enlargement of my collection which may occur to me

Asa Gray
Harvard University
Cambridge
Mass

BOSTON MASS
OCT 1

Myself and a friend Dr Jno. A Veatch have fallen upon the following plan He is acquainted with a gentleman in New Orleans named Blanchard a native if not of your city of its vicinity

We have concluded to consign them to his care and forward them to him an opportunity of doing which will soon offer He will of course transmit to you the consignment and bill of lading and in all probability they will arrive safely in Boston by the end of April or beginning of May

Meantime I will continue to make such additions to my collection as as opportunity shall offer of securing

Are the Genera Leskia & Hypnum united? According to Gen. description Gators I have not seen a Hypnum in this country while the species of Leskia are numerous at least I can make nothing else of them Having just made a beginning in the study of the mosses I experience considerable embarrassment in ascertaining the genera to say nothing of the species The Hepatica are quite numerous and I have encountered the same difficulty with them as with the mopes or more

But if fortune smiles you shall have the whole budget by the first favorable opportunity

Do you know any one who wants furnish me with a clear and comprehensive work on entomology & receive in return a collection of insects Dont I pray understand me that the insects, are collected I can not go about the work mechanically but must know a little somewhat of the subject as I go along I am entirely unacquainted with the merits of any entomological system and have but a slight knowledge of the subject so you can judge what kind of assistance I wants acquire

Please give me your opinion or that of some one on whose judgment you rely of a treatise on Herpetology as I might be induced to meddle with that subject Could I get some assistance

Did you know that we have a Diospyros different from the one so common in the U.S. It is low not attaining a height of more than 10-15 feet It grows on the margin of Trinity Bay perhaps elsewhere

We have collected a few lichens and still fewer fungi to the former have paid but little attention almost none at all to the latter

We shall (that is Dr Veatch and myself) turn our attention these subjects in time to come I dont want however to be responsible for his exertions as he has considerable professional business to attend to

It would give me pleasure to hear from you often but I hardly know what instructions to give you relative to the direction of your letters I know the liability of miscarriage attending letters in passing from the States to this Republic Therefore have often had my letters directed to Matchitoches But before your answer to this could reach that place I expect to go to Colorado and shall be at a great distance from the place of deposite

I believe I will not request you to write but should you do so direct to Columbus Colorado County and if they stop the Sabine that Scylla & Charybdis of shipwrecked letters they will probably find out my whereabouts Yours Charles Wright

Pro Tem

Mr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Recd Aug. 2d

Town Bluff Apr. 11th 45

Mr Gray

Dr Sir I have now selected and set apart from my herbarium such specimens of plants as I thought would be new to you or would be of service in the perfecting of your work & if they should in any wise contribute to your amusement or emolument I shall be pleased I have been constrained to condense them into a space as small as possible for want of paper I have preserved numbered specimens corresponding with those I have sent with the exception of a few of which I possessed only a single specimen In many cases I have added the sign of doubt? to the name and if the conjecture be judeciously made it will be unnecessary to say any more about it Where a mistake has been made in the naming I shall be pleased if you will rectify it In some cases minute descriptions have been given from the recent plant and on the spot where it was found In all cases average specimens have been chosen The mosses and flowering plants are almost all of my selecting and arranging Dr Vasey undertook to arrange and examine the Lichens but has had no time to spare from the duties of his profession I will therefore send you what few we have found without any regard to order and nameless Perhaps you may find something new among them

Inclosed in a box you will find some specimens of fungi parasitic on insects and a curious cocoon of some insect which was found fastened to the bark of a tree by a pedicel

The mosses and hepaticæ are in a book which

which I thought could not be better employed

It is more than probable that you will find the same plants in different places and differently numbered which could not well be avoided considering the imperfect means I am possessed of for determining species Some may perhaps I have been watching all winter that are not yet come to maturity which shall be reserved when fit for examination I believe I have found but one new one which is so manifestly different from any genus in Eaton that it would properly constitute a or belong to one already established but not in his latest edition It is numbered 23

I shall start in a few days to reside some time on the Rio Colorado and would with pleasure receive any communication from you Please direct to Columbus Colorado County but any letter you may write with reference to these plants and the corresponding ones which I retain may be directed to Dr John A Veatch, Natches, Liberty County, as I shall have all my plants in his care when I go westward

Dear Sir

Yours

Charles Wright

Answd. Sept. 8

Cuttsville Aug 28th 46

Dr Asa Gray

Dear Sir

Your letter of 4th July came to hand yesterday and the accompanying Notes Letter and I need but say they met a cordial reception I can account for my letter coming so late to hand and from Buffalo from the fact that I sent it by private conveyance and the bearer Rev. Chauncy Richardson passed through your city but the letter was at that time probably misplaced and on noticing the oversight he forwarded it from Buffalo Knowing the uncertainty of the mails I took this method of informing you with certainty that I had not heard from you and was ignorant that my package of plants had reached you

I am highly gratified that some one thought my humble endeavours worthy lent a helping hand to the cause of science in forwarding it I had at that time no certain way of forwarding any thing there being no regular Commission House with which I had any acquaintance

I saw Dr Veitch about two months since He did not mentioned the receipt of any thing from you and hence I infer that any thing you may have sent is lost on the way

I cordially embrace your proposition ~~of a regular~~

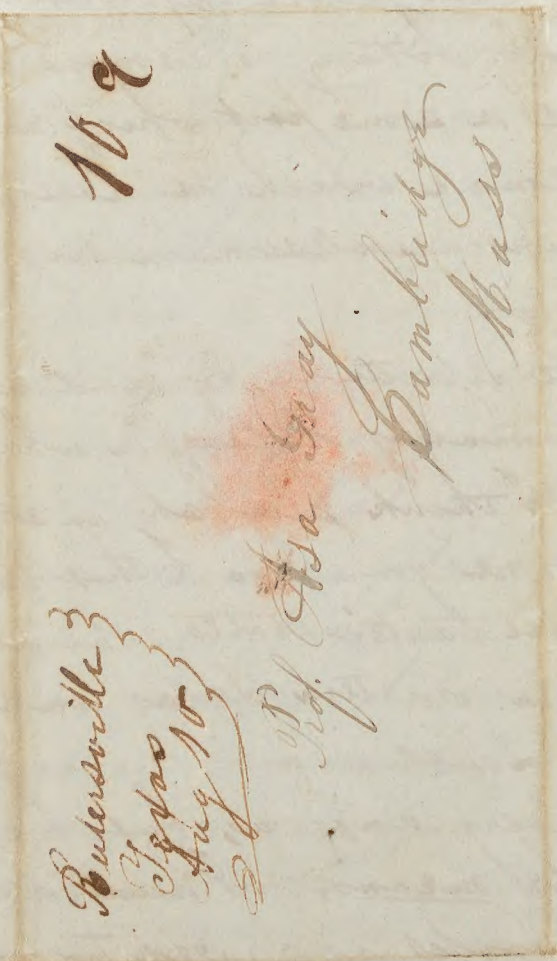
to continue a regular correspondence and will enter upon the collection and preservation of plants with renewed zeal I would even now be on my way to collect a species of petalostemon but that I have loaned my horse I commenced making a collection last spring with considerable animation but have not saved any for some time and this carelessness on my part is in a great measure owing to the failure of your communications to reach me I have travelled some within the last two months during which time I saw many plants that were new to me I found at Austin a Cassia with leaves in pairs linear lanceolate on petioles about an inch long yellow flowers We have a species of Viburnum erect with simple leaves flowers purple I found at Austin also an Acalypha quite different from the two species described in Eatons Manual and near this place an undescribed Schollera also a beautiful minute species of Gratiola and a Sabbatia with very small flowers I have been noticing a plant which is not rare in this vicinity but have not been able to find it in flower It grows in wet places leaves radical, on petioles 4-6 in. long, circular, divided to the petiole into quadrants It is so singular that from this meagre description you will know it if you have ever seen it or a drawing of it

We have a variety of Umbelliferæ in our State I will mention a peculiarity of one which grows in the bottoms I am uncertain whether the leaves are pinnate or bipinnate but the peculiarity consists in the pinnæ which are semi-verticillate in threes, one of them growing upward on the midrib Our petalostemons and other Leguminosæ are numerous I have seen as many as five or six species of Acacia some very interesting ones I think some undescribed (that is in my few books) Linums grow here certainly and I heard a gentleman in whose veracity I can place implicit confidence but whose knowledge of botany is almost a negative quantity) say that in some part which not now recollected of this country through which he had travelled large tracts of the Linum usitatissimum might be seen Is it what is you think of it?

I have had the opportunity of reading your Botanical Grammar or Grammar of Botany in which I noticed one statement which I think slightly incorrect as well as my memory serves me you remark that the genus Sarracenia is confined to the Atlantic states whereas I have often seen the S. Flava in Eastern Texas and presume it may be found also in Louisiana

I have been very anxious, but have not hitherto had the means, if I had had the opportunity to procure such books as I need to facilitate my studies and I will be much gratified to receive any thing for my assistance and advancement and will use all diligence to promote your interest in the business in which you are engaged

I am occupied most of my time in teaching and my botanical researches must necessarily be limited but what I can I will do with pleasure for your interest and amusement. I am no doctor or son of a doctor and neither have nor wish any handle to my name but plain Mr. I am a graduate of Yale and so am entitled to my A.B. if I want it and I seek no more



If you should have occasion to send to me any thing requiring consignment it might be sent to W. Scranton Houston through some house in Boston and before I have any thing to forward which will not be till late in the fall I will give you previous information

Yours truly Charles Wright

Pulaski ville Oct 29th 46

Dear Sir

Immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 4th of July last I hastened to respond to it by the returning mail and wrote at some length giving an account of my proceedings and describing several plants which I thought might be new to you or such as had some sticking peculiarity. About two weeks after I wrote again in consequence of forgetting some things which I was desirous of mentioning to you.

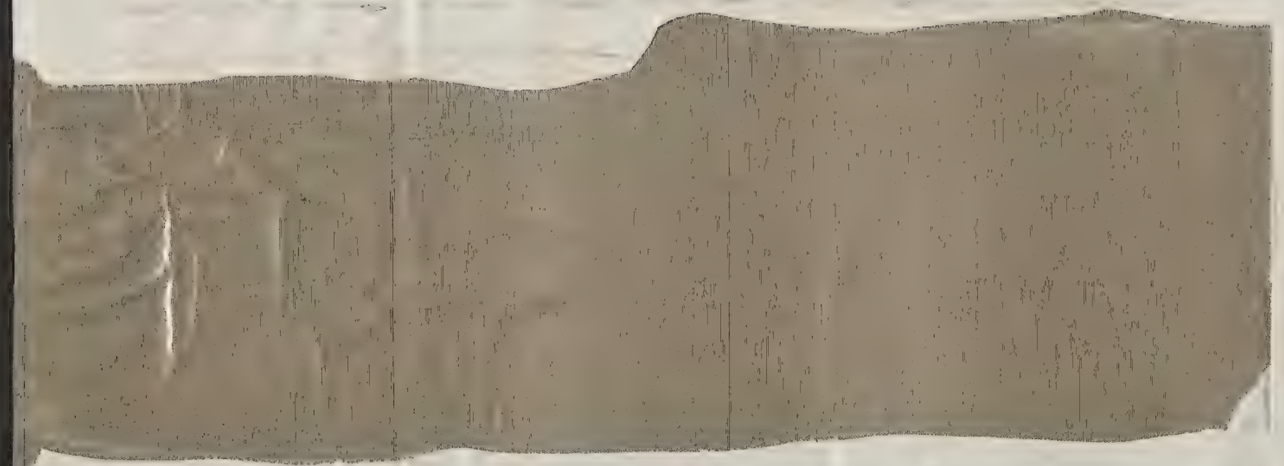
Since that time I have been waiting with impatience for an answer and I now begin to think that my letters are somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico having been lost on the New York & Liverpool mail had accumulated at Galveston during the diversion of the regular steamers to the service of the Government and was lost with that boat. I have since the receipt of your letter embraced every opportunity to increase my collection and have found many interesting plants some of which I have no doubt to believe are not common particularly a cuscuta and a Euphorbia which I have

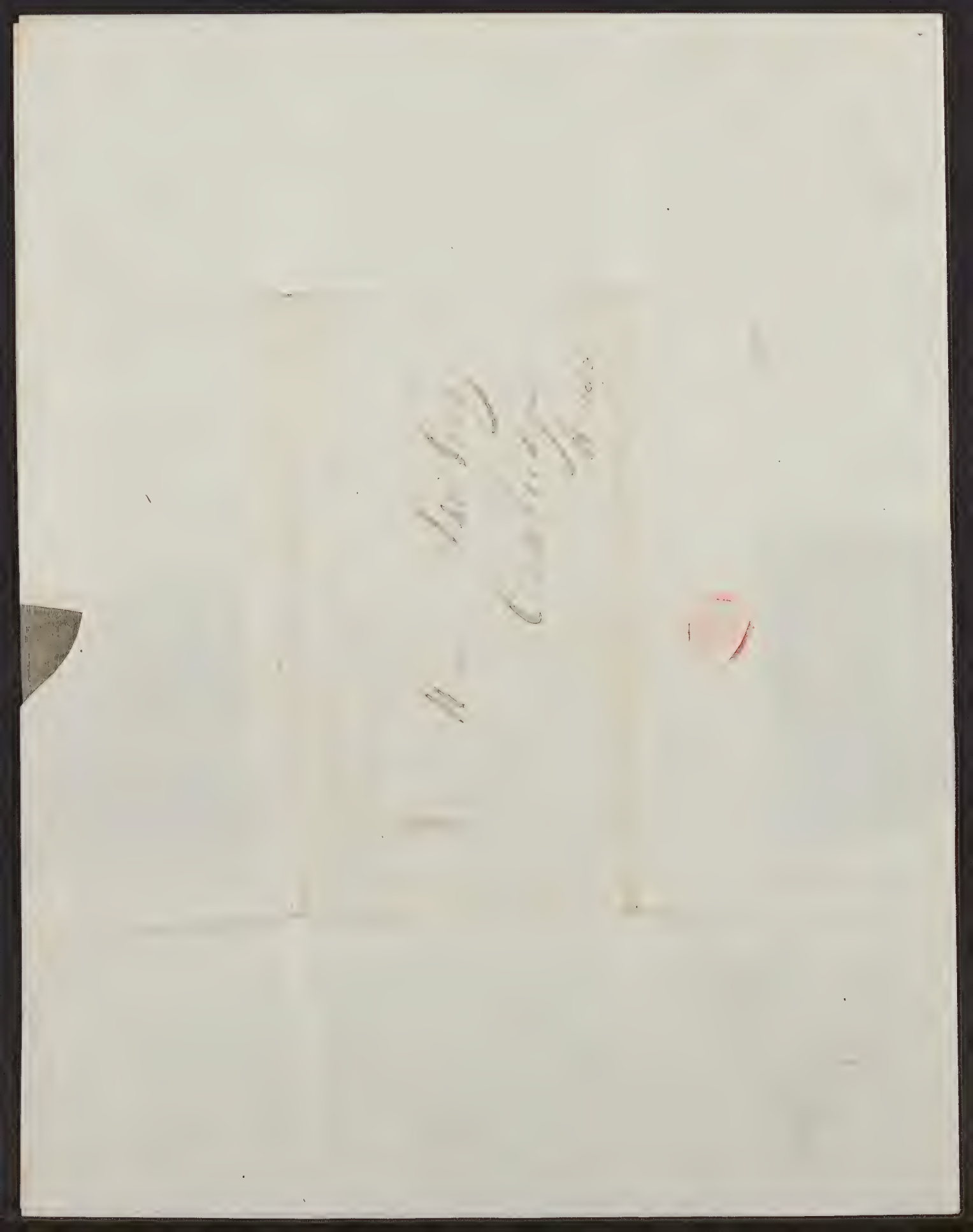
discovered in but one locality each
I can collect several species of Cactus
and forward to you if you desire it and
three or four bulbs with but little trouble but
to make any considerable collection of the latter
I must wait till next spring when I hope
I shall be in a situation to notify you with
a large and interesting collection.

Next summer I shall probably change my
place of residence and have a new field of
observation and shall be happy to continue
our correspondence and to furnish you such
assistance in your labors as my limited knowl-
edge but ready will may enable me to do
I may not be able to forward to you
my collection till about Christmas but in
a reasonable time from that date you
may look for it Received the Newsletter
with the letter you last wrote and shall
be happy to receive any favor from you
that will testify your gratitude for my
assistance and that will facilitate my
researches in the vegetable kingdom and
if I am over able I will own the "formidable
work" which you have on hand
Write on the receipt of this if you have not previously
by done so and make any suggestion you think
proper and if possible I will comply with
them I remain yours Sincerly
Chas Wright

Flora for
Charles Wright
Rutersville
Texas.

Sent to
J. B. Steele
Booksellers
New Orleans.





Seguin March 8th 47

Dear Sir

By yesterdays mail I received a sheet from you containing descriptions of some Texan Compositae and at the same time a letter from Dr John A Veatch dated Laredo Febs 10th containing a pressing invitation from him to come and share his quarters and embrace the opportunity which the protection of the U.S. Army at that place affords for the collection of curiosities in that region offering me any facilities in his power that is any number of packmules and the company and protection of an escort as parties are going to and coming from the station continually for divers purposes. As my mind is fully made up not to stay here any longer than circumstances will require it of me I shall endeavor to equip myself for a frolick this summer and as my expenses will be (though not great) something and my income nothing I shall be grateful for any assistance which you and your friends can render me whether in books or money

As I wrote you before if I could make a considerable collection this could be made of pecuniary advantage to me I would visit the North and bring my collections with me wishing much to see

my kindred who are residing there

If I should traverse the settled portion of the state you have it in your power to inform me what parts of it have been most thoroughly examined and to the others my attention might be mostly directed

I have made a small collection of Lichens and a few mosses and Hepaticae though but few of the two latter have yet made their appearance and I have written to Dr Sullivant for instructions how they can be forwarded on to him

I have also collected some seeds which I will send with the Cryptogamic plants and instruct him to divide with you

I have spent much of my leisure time this winter in the study of the Spanish language I lack however a good dictionary You have the opportunity by your acquaintance with the literary gentlemen of your college to give me some information that I want

I need a dictionary of that language something between a practical and a critical work one if there be such a one resembling Websters Royal Octavo one which is a moderate compass at the same time aspires to give the derivation of those words whose origin is not readily perceptible

And I would not be very choice whether it should be Spanish & English it might be all Spanish

Now some of your learned acquaintances would give you the information I need which you could send to me and also state whether the work could be procured in New Orleans If you can spare time do me the favor to satisfy my inquiries in your next

With sentiments of sincere esteem and respect I remain Your

Most obt Servt

Chas Wright

P.S. I have heard nothing of the books which you sent me. I am not pleased with Mr Scranton's silence relative to the disposition of the box intrusted to his care I think he ought to have informed me of the reason why he could not send it by the ordinary plan of shipment and I have been waiting impatiently to hear from you again that I might if the package had not arrived justly come upon him for the reason

C. W.

Name : enclosed at N. Orleans
per Lond. pkt. 27th

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Eutersville Sept 20/47

Dear Dr

I have been waiting impatiently for some time for another letter your last bearing date June 5th though I can conceive how the pressure of more important business must interfere with your correspondence with distant friends Under date of 6th you say you will soon have some more books for me I fear the box of books has arrived safely in Houston but as yet I have heard nothing of the Spanish Dictionary though I wrote to New Orleans for it immediately on the receipt of your letter

Since I last wrote I have been again to the Gulf of Mexico without forever making a very interesting collection For the last three weeks I have been hindered from doing anything by sickness and now I have lost my horse and think it very uncertain whether I ever see him again I intend making one more trip to Seguin and around to San Marcos Springs and Austin which will close my active labors for the season Part of my plants are at Seguin and as the means of transportation from that place to this is very uncertain I can not tell when I will be able to collect all my plants together for shipment

I would have endeavored to make a collection of fall grasses Cyperaceæ &c but the season has been so excessively dry that every thing of that kind is entirely ruined and I shall not be in any situation before any of those natural fam

will be collectible

I send you some specimens enclosed. The composite flower, you see, has a very short corolla with no border "et alii aiunt". It is about a foot high and was found among post oaks above Austin. The yatriola was found at Barchas springs 12 miles from Austin with bright yellow flowers and roots about 1ft long - it runs in water and on the margen. The other sp. of Nat. O. Scrophulariaceæ was found on the San Marcos - is a climber - is supported by its tendrilliform petioles - flowers blue. The sp. of Gentonaceæ grows on the Colorado & Guadalupe - post to flowers yellow.

In my last I think I sent you some specimens from which I would like to hear an account. Will a collection of cryptogamic plants be worth a good compound microscope - if so and any cryptogamist will send me one I will make next winter as good a collection as circumstances and situation will permit and remit it to him. I cannot procure an instrument of that kind in this country & I very much need one. I dont know where I shall be stationed next winter perhaps at Austin where the range for such studies is excellent.

Yours truly

Charles Wright.

Rutersville Texas
Septr. 21st. 10

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Putersville Oct 15th/47

Dear Sir

Your last is dated June 5th Have I received another letter yet? I have sent you two since that date containing small specimens Have they been seized as contraband by the officials of the P. O. Dep.

I was to begin and made (although) all the arrangements necessary for the conveyance to this place, of my specimens left here but they all failed so I concluded to box up what I have here and send the remainder when I can get them This I did to-day and a fine package it is All the seeds which I had here I also inclosed and I wish when you are overlooking them you would select a few such as you think would repay by their beauty the care which a common country gardener would bestow on them, and send them to my brother John G Wright, Wethersfield Conn. Some of the Malvaceæ are quite pretty especially the one with blue flowers of which as well as several others I have sent you a pleaty of seeds

Care of James L Howard Hartford

I have generally written on the inside of the paper the name when known and when not the locality, date, color of flowers &c so that you will be at little loss in assigning each package of seeds to the specimen to which it belongs

† Inclosing envelopes

These are some packages of seeds gathered when the plants had completely dried up consequently you will find no specimens corresponding

I wrote you (Stiuts) that I had prepared the cryptogamic plants collected last winter and added some flowering plants secured last spring and left them at Seguin with directions that they should be sent to Houston. When I was last at Seguin I made inquiry for the box I could learn nothing of it

The merchant in whose care I left it had gone to the army and another individual who may know what it is or what became of it I did not see I hope it will reach you in safety. I will write to Swanton in Houston and inquire for it ——— The Dictionary you sent me is in Houston and awaits my order ——— Please tell Mr Towle to stop the Bot Journal at the close of the year until we have better mail arrangements Only about half the numbers reach this place

P.S. We have growing promiscuously with Palafoxia callosa a var. Lachenia smooth & destitute of pappus I will send specimens in the next package

I believe I made a proposition in my last to exchange with any cryptogamist a collection of cryptogamic for a Compound microscope — I shall probably be at Austin this winter where will be great facilities for making the collection

I presume that in most cases I have sent more seeds than you will need for your botanic garden — if practicable make them profitable to me if not distribute among those who take the specimens It is my interest to sell as many of the specimens as possible but I suppose that many will be left which you will not absolutely need Could you not effect for me an exchange of some of my specimens for northern plants? and if so send me a specimen safely by paper — I hope to buy newspapers out of the P. O. & pay the postage on them which at the present high rate is quite a tax on me —

Oct 18th My box will start for Houston tomorrow & I have requested my merchant to ship it as soon as possible

Please answer this on the receipt of it if you have not written recently and satisfy me on the several questions I have proposed —

And believe me

Ever yours

Charles Wright

Rutersville Texas Colr 19th 1845 10

Prof. Asa Gray. M. D.

Cambridge

Mass.

Austin Nov 19th 1847

My Dear Sir

The season for studying phenogamous plants being over I have begun to look out for Cryptogamia and have begun to make a collection of Cactaceæ and bulbs such as I think will bear transportation to your climate I am now thinking the most few days of the feasibility of furnishing you with some of the shrubbery of our state by means of cuttings roots &c and by sending you a box of hardy plants bulbs &c you will be likely to raise many other annual plants from the seed which may be contained in the soil in which these plants may be sent. I would like to know your wishes on this subject and receive any suggestions (my agricultural knowledge is very limited) as to the mode of sending cuttings so as to insure their life & the certainty of their growth. I could furnish you with cuttings or roots of the Bivonia doubtfully described in the Flora, of a Xanthoxylum not described also a Rhus, a Dasylirion Mimosa & likely others of which I can not think now. I will continue to make such collections as I think would be acceptable until I hear from you again

I wrote in one of my letters requesting you to negotiate for me and furnish me a Compound Microscope which I now reiterate more earnestly ~~again~~ for this reason

Since I last wrote I have lost the pocket ~~[illegible]~~ magnifying glass which I used in my examination of flowers and another can not be procured in this State I might perhaps send by some merchant but he would likely charge it & demand twice the value for it or get a worthless thing: for that class of our population would hardly look into one end of *any thing* unless they could see a *half dime* at least or something bigger at the other end and these they can see without the aid of *specs*

I have sent you one box of plants and hope to start another some time soon I also prepared a box containing also some other plants of cryptogamia, and left it at Sequin last summer It has disappeared and I can only hope that it may reach you as safely as the box I first sent

Your last is dated June 1st & I hardly need say that I am very anxious to hear from you again I expect to resid permanently here and will embrace every opportunity (and they often happen) of making excursions into the mountains when I can command the time during most of which I shall necessarily be closely confined

Enclosed are seeds of a beautiful liliaceous bulbous plant which blooms wild in the spring and fall flowers yellow pink deeper sparks and has but just ceased flowering you may not raise it from the seeds but I have plenty of bulbs

Pray write soon & let me know how you are progressing in your labors in which I take a deep interest

Yours

Chas Wright

20th I have just heard with regret that the box of plants which I left at Buttersville with the promise that it should be taken to Boston is not gone the man with [illegible] me he would be sorry it having gone to Boston & then it — a friend has promises to send it by the first [illegible]

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Austin Febs 8th/48

My Dear Doctor

I have recently received a letter from my friends in Connecticut from which I infer that they have had some kind of correspondence with you. They inform me that you would send me a package of books about December 1st & say that you are embarrassed as to the manner of sending. Now this seems strange as every package sent to me from Boston has safely come to hand. In my last I wrote you that I had countermanded my orders to have my collections sent on to you; since receiving the above-mentioned letter however, inferring that you are indeed an inhabitant of upper air I have revoked the countermand and have been busying myself to collect you as good an assortment of Cactaceæ as I could.

I have 5 distinct species exclusive of the one most common here the Opuntia vulgaris or Missouriensis and a number of bulbs of two or three different kinds. If you had written to me some time early in the winter and given me hints about sending specimens of shrubbery I could have collected and sent you a good many species. I think hard of it that you have not written for so long a time for I have your promise that you would write me the names of any small plants which I should send you & I sent you several during the last summer.

I have seen Actinea scaposa in flower as early in the year as this; and a berberis? noticed on p. 662 Vol 1. Flora shows a profusion of buds just ready to expand.

Feb 11 I find today Draba platycarpa & Carolineana & some forward specimens of Anemone Virginica.

Do write before always

Yours Chas Wright

Dont Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Answd 14th April

Austin Feby 19th/48

My Dear Sir

I have just sent to Houston what plants I had here with the tuberose and bulbs which I have collected here this spring and (as I hope) made arrangements by which all my collection of plants made last summer & the present winter will in a few days be on the way to you

I say spring above because we have at this present writing such weather as you enjoy the last of April or first of May & I am now sitting with all the doors open and in my shirt-sleeves or coat-off

I wrote you inclosed in one to Mr Howe a few days ago. My letter to him was on the subject of books and as you, in one of your last epistles to me, encouraged me to think, that by furnishing you with plants, I could procure such books as I might need I hope you will soon receive them & inform me what I may reasonably expect I need some books — I wish for many. But necessity must be considered before desire

As I wrote you before I would like it if they could in some measure compensate me for my labor — if not

salable I hope they will be exchangable

I shall continue to make collections for myself and for you if you desire me and for others if they can be disposed of by sale or exchange

I wish you would write if not sooner at least when the plants arrive you certainly can speak out after almost a year's silence—

Will you reserve specimens of the Gaillardia and bulbs for my brother if he should apply for them & if they should arrive in good condition

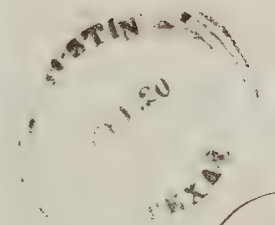
I have written to have the boxes shipped without unnecessary delay and I hope they will arrive in season for you to make succesful trials at raising southern plants from the seeds

You must have received before this time (if you ever will) a package of seeds & a letter sent by one Dr Baker who was going from this state to Maine and who said he should pass through Boston

I wrote to Mr Goulde at the same time from whom I have received an answer

Ever Yours

Charles Wright



Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Austin July 8th/48

My Dear Sir

I start on monday next for the Rio Grande at the solicitation of Dr Veatch who commands a company at one of the military stations on that river What the opportunities for preserving plants will be I can not tell until I arrive there He offers me a clerkship in his company during the remainder of the term of service which expires on the 23d of Oct. and he adds that I will have plenty of time to make botanical excursions — But I fear I shall have to start without my boxes which I have been so long impatiently waiting for

I have received all your letters written the present year — the last under date 17th May We have had no late mail the steamers being (I suppose) employed in the transportation of troops I shall have one more opportunity to get letters by the mail of tomorrow night after which I shall have to wait a long time

I have heard nothing from Fowle for some time He has not sent me the receipt for the bill you paid him nor has he answered my letters for more books — for which I wrote There may not have been time for his letters to reach me I sent him a bill for about $25 — 30 worth of books shortly after you wrote me that you had told him to let me have more books on your acct Please enquire of him about the matter

I send you the upper & cauline leaves of a very common species of Chrysopsis The lower are similar to the cauline with perhaps a petiole some-

what longer I have not examined it very closely but among the several descriptions of Species I did not notice any mention made of the peculiar auricled petiols. The pappus is rather tawny

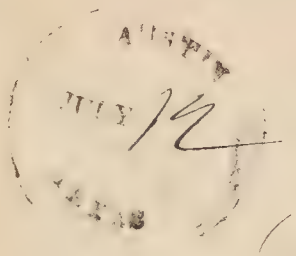
I send also the seed of a species (rare) of vesicaria which I have found only in one locality, near this place, on the mountains. It is biennial many nearly erect stems 2 ft. high from the same root leaves oblanceolate scattered and nearly linear towards the summit racemes rather short pedicels 2/3 inch long silicle globose-ovate 4-6 seeded a little shorter than the style and 3 times the length of the stipe I send you the seed that you may have an opportunity of planting them this summer or in the fall

I intended to visit some of the military stations above here on this river but have not been able to accomplish my object

I am Dear Sir

Yours respectfully

Charles Wright



Dr. Asa Gray

Cambridge.

16 cts

Eagle Pass Rio Grande July 21st/48

Dear Doctor

I arrived here day before yesterday and have been somewhat unwell ever since so that I have not been able to make many observations though a few very short walks have shown me many new plants of which I send you some specimens A Lythrum found on the Medina, Stamens 12 Platt about a foot high the lower leaves of the same form but larger grows in damp places Flowers July Might it not be named with propriety Medinense. Two species of a genus which I think not described in the Flora. The narrow leafed sp. common above Austin and elsewhere the other found on the Rio Seco growing here

Also a Sp of Oxalis? with simple leaves and a Hoffman found by Fr. Vocate seggia? on the level prairies near Saroa in Mexico

Also a Dalea undescribed though not rare a Dysodia item

I found many other interesting plants among others several Compositae which I cannot identify a conoclinium and an acourtia or something near it I collected on Moboa this morning not described I saw in abundance a tall 1½ ft Species of Bolivania with long tubular flowers

I found on the Leona the Seco the Nueces and other streams a Sp of Indigofera strikingly like the I tinctoria manifestly indigenous but I had no book containing a description of that sp. so I could not compare

It grows in the gravelly bed of the streams

We have a beautiful plant of the Nat. Or. Nyctaginees 2nd flowers clustered, or many in one involucre long-tubular pale-yellow leaves glaucous green the stem the key to the knowledge of some others — but forgive me for trying to give descriptions from memory without Specimens Mrs C. Wright

P.S. I have almost no paper at all here but I hope
I dare not expect to have some sent me from Austin
soon Should I be disappointed you must not expect
much from me

C. W.

P.S. iterum if we agree that I go to Santa Fe would it not
be a good plan for me to come and spend the winter with
you and assist you in studying and arranging my collec-
tions or would I freeze up to an icicle — C. W.

Rutersville Texas
August 17th 1848

10

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

San Antonio Sept 20th /48

My Dear Sir

I have just received your letter of June 15th & 7 July 10th They were cordially forwarded to me from Austin by private conveyance when they should have been sent by mail in which case I should have received one or both of them before leaving the Rio Grande As it is they have taken me rather by surprise However I am now fully resolved to embrace your proposition and hurry on to the North with the least possible delay I may find letters in Austin which may lead me to change that resolution

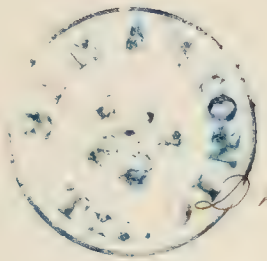
If I had received your letter promptly now might have been ere now informed of my acceptance My only hesitancy on the subject arises from the fear that you may have subjected yourself to a censure if I should change ~~my~~ my mind and I will inform you promptly I have made a very pretty collection of plants and seeds in Western Texas and Tamaulipas (I believe that is the state which I travelled in) There is still a vast field open here and if I were to consult my own taste I should prefer to be a collector Meantime what will you do for a collector I suppose Santa Fé will now be open and to a considerable extent free from danger and any one travelling there could perhaps extend his researches into the adjoining states of Mexico

If I go on I shall take the cheapest and most expeditious route to my maternal home from which I will immediately

announce my arrival
I am in excellent health and think I could brave a
northern winter like a bear

Yours respectfully
Charles Wright

P.S. I hope to start for Austin in the morning and expect
to be about two and a half days on the way



Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Austin May 26th 49

My Dear Doctor

Let me report progress You know the date of my departure from New York and probably that of my arrival in Galveston I took the first boat for Houston Unable to transport my baggage by Stage I put it on a road-waggon (unfortunately) overloaded and with a weak team By a blunder of the driver he started on the wrong road and one as bad as roads ever get to be The result was he was obliged to hire himself hauled out of the mud into the right road and on that we had divers unloadings and reloadings to perform on our way up I footed it through mud and water and had a fair chance to be taken for a gentleman or amphibia

I stopped a few days with my friends at Butlersville and then got here some days before the waggon On my way up and here I have collected some 250 species probably which will furnish some 2000 specimens some few rather bad — injured by rain and most of which we had a plenty They are mostly old and known plants but will do for exchange

I have been here a week and have now ascertained that on monday next or soon thereafter a waggon will start for San Antonio and the Quartermaster a Springfield man Mr Chapman has promised me transportation I have a letter to Gen. Harney which I hope will secure me transportation if not subsistence to El Paso I intend to procure one to Major Henry which will secure me his favor and assistance

The train will leave San Antonio on the 1st prox and Mr Chapman says will be three months on the route — 200 miles per month — ample leisure to botanize by the way

I found no letters in Galveston and my suspense about my last years collection of plants I am quite distressing

I found in Houston the small box of lichens collected two or three
winters ago as I again I guess is a start and told it to go

When arrived here I hastened to hunt up my box It seems that
the Cholera almost wholly cut off communication with Houston
and it was sent to Port Lavaca by a very good friend of mine
and was (I doubt) not safely deposited there I have written a letter of
enquiry to the house that should have shipped it My trunk
was also sent on with it probably at my request for which I am
sorry as it contains nothing but my letters and papers some cloth-
ing and a variety of little trinkets such as an old bachelor may
be supposed to have about him You may keep it till I send for
it These things should have reached you long ago as they
were deposited for shipment late in January or early in Feby

I want you to order to my friend, Hugh McClure, Austin,
the following "The Working Farmer" by Prof Jas. J Mapes, Haigman
& Cross, Publishers, Clinton Hall corner of Nassau & Beekman Sts. N.Y
Also "The Pharmaceutic Practical Receipt Book" by F. Soullard
for sale by Wilson & Co. This is wanted in accounts of some receipts for
cements, varnishes &c McClure is a gunsmith Also "the Philosophy
of the Water Cure" by Dr John Balbirnie For sale by Wilson & Co
These can be sent by mail & you can probably get Mr Grant to attend
to it and Mr McClure will pay me the money on demand* (only one dollar)

My paper was considerably injured and diminished in
quantity by abrasion when wet in loading & unloading and rubbing
against the other articles in the waggon You had better send
me at some time before winter a good supply for next year
and be careful if it should cost a few dimes more (it will
be economy in the end) to have it well sewed up in strong canvass
and in parcels of such size as to be easily handled
This and any thing else you may send had better be addressed
to Wm Hendley & Co Galveston & Hugh McClure Austin
and I think they will come safely

*Will you also order his subscription to the Scientific American
to be continued It will expire this month if not continued. Send
also "The Gardiners & Florists" to Wilson & Co.

My health is pretty good I was considerably reduced by hard fare
on ship-board I dont know what else it was for I weathered the
voyage without seasickness Our accommodations were excusable
I could go a steerage passage with ten times as much comfort

Pardon a remark on Yaupon vomitoria I have found it in one
or two more localities but always on the side of roads May not
its devication from the normal form be the effect of trampling?

I may have to lay in provisions at San Antonio to El Paso
and join some of the messes of privates unless some of
the officers should take a liking to me as I hope they will
and it may diminish my expenses These have been rather
greater than I expected My trip to N. York and back to
Wethersfield early in March, Hotel bill for several days about
the 1st Apl. my passage money not 25 dols but 27½, Hospital
money at Galveston, wharfage, storage, drayage, Town expenses,
passage & freight to Houston, & a repetition of like little charges
there with my expenses up the country though I have tried to be
economical have considerably reduced my funds & till I think
I will have enough for the present campaign & if you will have
arrangements made to supply me for the next I think I will be
able to do something handsome for yourself and other friends

You need not hope to hear from me again before I arrive at
El Paso unless something very important should occur

Affectionately
Yours
Charles Wright

San Antonio May 31st/49

My Dear Doctor

I have just put my baggage on one of the Army waggons with that of my good friend Dr Baker whom I fortunately met here and to whom I am much indebted

I had a letter to Gen Harney from Mr Miller Secretary of State explaining my pursuits and wishes The Gen. gave me but little encouragement Mr French the Asst Quartermaster gave me a little more encouragement and at the solicitation of Dr Baker allowed me to put my baggage on the waggon with out the least assurance of subsistence and I have been obliged to muster up all the Yankee confidence natural to me (which is and always was but little) with what the Dr had to spare assisted too by Mr Shelton to bear me out in my undertaking I shall start after the train this evening and I shall try to get something to eat out of some body

Now can not you get a special order from the head of the Commissary Department to furnish me with support and transportation The officers all plead that they have no authority to grant these favors and if they grant them to one for a certain purpose — as to me for botanising — how can they refuse them to others for other purposes? I have no assurance that my collection will be transported back from El Paso though I have no doubt that they can be more easily brought back than I can be conveyed there as the waggon will return empty The officers all express a desire to serve me but at the same time say they have no authority without assuming responsibility which they are unwilling to do

And can you not procure me a draft on the Paymaster for one hundred dollars payable in the autumn or as soon as convenient so that I can get the money with as little trouble as possible I am not without hopes of obtaining some sort of situation in the army a kind of sinecure which without much duty will secure me my rations and some pay perhaps

Now I hope you wont forget me because I cant hear from you nor you from me I am soon to be outside of the boundary of civilization and have no hopes of hearing from you soon though I shall embrace any favorable opportunities that may occur of writing

My collection of specimens amounts now to upwards of 300 – some numbers being duplicates – and many of my late specimens very fine; 'twould do your eyes good to see them

I am rejoiced that I am in time, late as it is, to go with the train and you will doubtless share my joy at the favorable prospect before me It is supposed we will be three months on the route (– travelling slowly –) of only about 500 miles It seems hardly possible that so much time will be required to make that distance

There is still some Cholera here and the weather is getting very hot and I shall have to be very prudent to avoid sickness I must start this evening & walk 15 miles to overtake my waggon – not a very pleasant evening walk either in prospect or in execution

I will ascertain what facilities I will have of receiving communications from you and will write from Castroville or some other point on the route I send you a brief description of the route – one entirely new beyond the Leona

My kind regards to Mrs G

Yours sincerely

Chas Wright

Dr Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Natchez June 2nd/49

My Dear Dr

I wrote you so recently that if I were not full I would keep silence But the steam is so high that if I do not blow off fearful consequences may follow

Yesterday morning we had a violent norther cold and accompanied with rain sleet which and when ready to start my baggage Carpet &c was distributed about into three or four waggons It was so packed that it was not much injured This morning about daylight we had another more severe accompanied with hail. My collection were nearly all wet and I have had no time to dry them so they will be much damaged. My paper is nearly all wet I should not wonder if we have another storm tonight

Now these are misfortunes attendant on my dependent situation and I can not prevent them The officers care nothing about my affairs and the waggoners have a little curiosity to gratify by looking on while I change my plants and care no more about it or rather would be pleased if they were sunk in the river and their load would be lightened

You will recollect I suppose a suggestion made to you that I should be equipped with a waggon and horse from which you dissented instancing the labors of other botanists who has made large collections But I venture to say that Drummond did not attempt attempt to save 12-15 specimens of each species or if he did he had an art which I do not possess

The outfit which I proposed seemed to you perhaps large but I am sincerely of the opinion that the entire cost of the outfit might have been clear saved the present year I would rather have a horse and carriage and ten dollars in my pocket than have five hundred as I am so far as it facilitates my operations

I have money in my pocket but it does me no good I can buy nothing with it I sit uninvited and see others eating and it is a severe trial to my feelings to thrust myself among them The men have their rations and often none to spare and how I am to get along to El Paso I know not If I had consulted my own feelings alone I should have stopped at San Antonio and turned back But you & Mr Howell had expectations which would not have been realized and I felt reluctant to disappoint you You wrote to me of working like a dog I know how you live—then call your situation dog-paradise and mine hog- and ass-paradise combined and you may realize my situation—sleep all night if you can in the rain and walk 12-15 miles next day in the mud and then overhall a huge package of soaked plants and dry them by the heat of the clouds

I have been now three or four days in such a state of uncertainty about the possibility of going on that I have had no enjoyment and to day I have not saved a specimen—have merely collected some seeds as I walked along the way As for studying the plants I have not attempted it so long that I have almost forgotten how I have been vexed enough to cry or swear when thinking that I have the pleasing prospect of being dependent for six months on a parcel of men who call me a fool and wish me at the bottom of the sea

There is a man who is bound for California in our company—provided with a carriage and mules provisions and cooking utensils—independent as a wood-sawyer and dependent on others only for safety against enemies If I had such a one my expenses would be very trifling I could collect twice as many specimens of twice as many species and twice as well preserved I could attend to them at any time I pleased in wet or dry weather and have the assurance that the rain at least could be prevented from coming to them I could also take them to Houston or other seaport and put them on shipboard myself and then I would know they would depend for their forwarding on no careless agents

I am fully resolved that this season will close my botanical travels on horseback or on foot—if I can not operate to better advantage I'll give it up and turn my attention to something else

I can now only hope that when Capt. French arrives in camp by situation will be improved by an appointment or in some other way

I have no expectation of hearing from you till about the beginning of winter of course the arrangements for the next year if I spend it in Texas Boundary must be attended to by you So far as shipments of papers &c are concerned What I wrote in my last about money I recall as I know not what to do with that which I have You now know my sentiments on the mode of business in this country If you wish to continue it on your plan I am ready to do all I can

It will facilitate the saving of bulbs-seeds-cacti &c in large quantities Luckily they sell in such as some to Galveston would go far to defray expenses

I am in good health Give my regards to Mrs G and all enquiring friends

Affectionately Yours
Chas. Wright

Camp on the Verde June 18th/69

My Dear Doctor

I suppose need not tell you that I was in a bad humor when I wrote last & I had good reason to be in I was going westward in a state of great uncertainty whether I would be permitted to proceed Now however I have the assurance from Maj Von Horn the officer in command that I shall have all the facilities which he has power to grant My rations are not furnished and I board with one of the messes - but Dr Baker & myself have the possession of one waggon to ourselves - so I hope I will have a fair chance of keeping my collection in good order My list of specimens now runs up to 450 all collected on ground before traversed - now we shall diverge from the old beaten track and traverse a section of country unexplored by botanists

I have ransacked this vicinity and though I have made no very interesting discoveries I hope I have something new I am somewhat interested in the cuscutas several of which I have found on this route particularly one growing in the current of the Verde I see no where else My last year collection which I hope you have received before now contains contains some of the same

I can hardly form an opinion what will be my expenses or whether I shall return to the Colorado which I am very desirous to do next winter I was not able to settle one item of my business which brought me any money though I had several opportunities of paying some of my own little debts I think it will be well if you can make some arrangement to supply me with money if I need it either by a draft on the Quartermaster or through some friends of the officers Maj Von Horn, Maj. Henry, or Lt. Johnson or some one else Maj Hendrick perhaps You can through some friend ascertain

whether you can make any arrangement of the kind.

This country is now very dry and furnishes but few plants. I hope however when we come on the Las Moras, Devil's river and Pueco and the intervening mountains something interesting will be found.

Tomorrow we start from this camp and steer for the head of the Leona — then westward towards the Nueces & so on to the Las Moras the Pueco &c.

I am now in fine health & good spirits and could I on the return of the express which will carry this receive something from you acknowledging the receipt of my last years collection my mind would be quite at ease.

My best wishes to Mrs Ky and yourself for the health & happiness of your both.

Affectionately Yours

Charles Wright

P.S. I enclose some specimens of what I suppose to be a Potamogeton found today in stagnant water near the head of the Leona with Lamellibranchiata Lemna &c. I found also a species of pondweed smaller than any other specie, which I have heretofore seen in all its parts with petals of a delicate light purple hue. Unfortunately I obtained but one specimen of the expanded flower.

Please divide specimens of the enclosed plant with Mr Tucker, and present with them my respects.

P.S. I find Trichocoronis nivalis abounding in the Nueces — not in yr flower — consequently within the limits of your flora. June 20th. I collected the identical specimens of T. Wrightii as I passed up the Colorado below Bastrop

Camp on the San Pedro July 2nd/47

My Dear Doctor

I have pretty much made up my mind to return to San Antonio with the train which will stay but a few weeks at El Paso I have paper sufficient for the present season only and I am perfectly convinced that I shall get no more without going after it unless (which is not very probable) it could be sent as Quartermaster's stores. The indifference and even petty spite shown me and my pursuits by the head waggon-master of the train in which I have been thrown lead me to this opinion and the want of interest shown by the Quartermaster himself proves to me that he will give himself no trouble to forward my pursuits Maj Van Horn & Maj Henry expressed a willingness to assist me but did nothing except promise me transportation Left thus to the tender mercies of the Quartermaster & Waggon master my baggage has been at one time or another in well nigh a dozen different waggons and sometimes scattered about in five or six one ream of paper here and another there one trunk in a third and my pistols in a fourth. Whenever Capt French A.A.M. gets in an ill humor he begins to grumble about the weakness of his teams and the transportation of botanists trunks (he has not made adequate provision for the transportation of the train and the Maj himself are at loggerheads about it) There are two ways to remedy these evils in any subsequent campaign — to get special permission and power from the Sec. of War to demand transportation and subsistence — or to go entirely independent of the troops as I have heretofore written to you except the protection of their company I am pretty well determined to stay at home hereafter unless I can travel under more agreeable circumstances

I have been devising a plan to secure the favor and assistance of Government —— to present to Prof. Henrie for the Smithsonian Institute a set of my collections then if he has any influence at head quarters he can secure for me these advantages which will put me above the control of an Ass. Q. Master and an Almighty Waggon-master

I pay now $12. per month for my board and at that rate by the time I return to Austin I shall be about out of funds

If I knew positively and could satisfy Dr Baker that you would honor a draft from me I could get money from him which you could pay to his order for his children and thus accommodate him and me

Since writing the above I have talked with Dr Baker and he expresses his desire that I should give him a draft on you payable 10 days from sight for $150* which I trust you will honor The draft he sends to his brother in Boston and the money he will pay over to me before the conclusion of this campaign or when I shall need it as I undoubtedly shall before I get back to the Rio Grande settlements Immediately on the payment of the draft, give me notice of the fact through Dr Baker directing to ~~"S. W. Baker San Antonio Surgeon to Capt French's division of the expedition to El Paso" to Ass. Quarter Master Lt. French"~~ "Doct. S. W. Baker Surgeon to the train of Capt. S.G. French Ass. Q.M. of the expedition to El Paso" This is to be enclosed to Doct. James M. Levine San Antonio with request to forward by the first express

I have lately passed over an interesting country and found several things quite new particularly a Hedyotis resembling in its foliage very closely Hymenanthemum tenuilobum &c. I have also fine fruiting specimens of Heliomeris tenuifolia collected on a high hill near our encampment on Turkey creek

Today I have not found much of interest I had to lie up day before yesterday with fever but I am well again

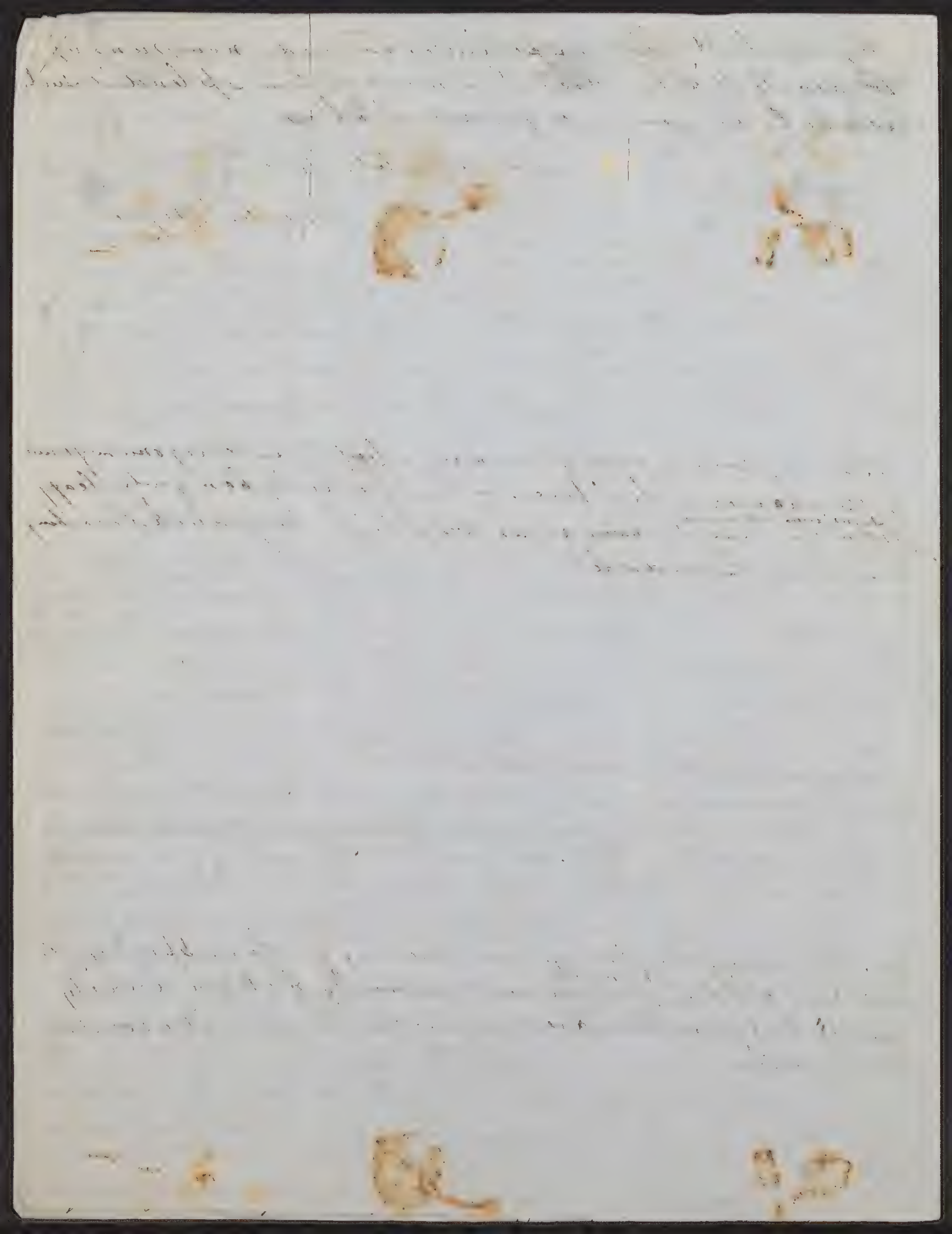
My numbered list of specimens and seeds now runs up to nearly six hundred and most of them splendid such as would do your eyes good to look at

Affectionately Yours

Charles Wright

P.S. Enclosed are the flower and a leaf of an Eryngium found in the channel of the Rio Grande on high gravelly bars quite leafy and sometimes branched from the base about 1½-2 ft high — very much branching from about the middle

* This money the Dr has been reserving for the support of his orphan children in the north and he will naturally feel an anxiety until he learns that they are enjoying the benefit of it according to his desire



Camp on San Felipe creek 200 miles
west from San Antonio July 10th/47

Maj. Dear Doctor

I dont know that I should write to you at the time but to describe a very curious little plant found at this place It's appearance and habit are those of a Stagea but when inspected all resemblance disappears Fl. solitary on pedicels less than a line long Calyx 5-parted segments slightly reflexed Corolla wheel form with a very slender tube about a line long limb 5-cleft segments obovate Stamens (apparently) rising from the base of the tube of the corolla externally and exserting outwards & upwards and adhering or from the extremity to the middle of the segments of the corolla where the narrowly oval anthers (dark purple) are very slightly elevated above the points of adhesion Fruit 5-carpellary tuberculate hispid on pedicels elongated in fruit and reflexed Flowers greenish July In one locality only on a bluff near our present encampment

I dont suppose the slender threads outside of the corolla are in any way connected with the stamens, but they are such a singular appendage that I do not know what to make of them Plant 8-10 in. high branching from near the base

I find here Hymenatherum tagetifolia and three other species besides many other interesting plants

We have lain here now four days and I dont know when we will move onward before long I hope I had one lights attack of the fever but I dismissed the intruder as soon as possible

We have fine weather and I am making beautiful specimens I am now of the opinion that I shall call round and see you next winter At any rate as I wrote you last I shall be compelled

to return to San Antonio and when so far on my way I think I had better keep on to Boston and see my collection safely ~~[illegible]~~ carried to their port of destination If you receive this in time to send me an answer you may ~~send~~ direct it under cover to Capt. "J. G. French Ass. Quarter Master San Antonio" for which liberty I have his permission, by paying the postage You can then give me your advice concerning my future movements and communicate any other information which you think proper

By the way I am a good deal dependent on Capt. French & may still be so if I continue my labors another year and as he is somewhat interested in the collection of curious plants and in science generally when they do not thwart his pecuniary interest I prefer to keep on the fair-weather side of him & perhaps you can help me to do so by sending him some books or memoirs read before the Academy which will not be too great a pecuniary sacrifice for you to make

We are said to be only eight miles from the Rio Grande and I think I was in sight of the farther bank yesterday I went about four miles down this creek and climbed a very steep conical hill some 200-300 ft high composed almost entirely of a foliaceous conglomerate of a peculiar species of shell— Here I found one of the sp. of Hymenatherum and only here It most nearly resembles H. Wightii but I think it cannot be it

Present my regards to Mrs. G. & other friends

Ever Yours

Charles Wright

Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Camp near the head of Devil River July 31st 1849

My Dear Doctor

I improve the opportunity offered by an express to San Antonio to write you that I am in good health and pretty good spirits. We make slow progress having made but little over one hundred miles per month. We are now about two hundred & twenty-five or thirty miles beyond San Antonio and for the last fifty have been traversing a hilly country and one very interesting to a botanist. I have had good opportunities of securing every thing in flower & fruit owing to our slow movements and long delays at several encampments.

I have made a very fine collection of seeds but the Cactaceae and bulbs I must almost entirely neglect for want of facilities for transportation. I have had more difficulties to encounter than I anticipated. I was thrown by Gen. Harney into the Commissary train and here I met with but little sympathy. I was kindly received by Maj. Van Horn & Maj. Henry but I am separated from them often as many as twenty or thirty miles for one month. I boarded with one of the messes since which I have been obliged to cook for my victuals.

Just think of that, Doctor — a literary and College-learnt man figuring cook for a living. Well it is some consolation to think that when I get out of this scrape I'll not get into exactly such another. However I hope I shall be able to go over the same ground early next year under more favorable auspices. As I wrote you before

I believe I shall have to return to San Antonio in the fall if that and winter do not overtake us too soon and stop up our way.

I have been studying on the several contradictory letters I have written to you—contradictory I mean as to the amount and means of subsistence which I wished you to send me This was the result of the circumstances in which I was placed Sometimes I was spending money as fast as I could wish & the next day perhaps I could not buy for money what I wanted Provisions are now getting scarce and can not be bought—so I save my money—when I get to El Paso I may have to pay enough in one day to board me in Boston a week

The last arrangement made would set my mind at rest if Doctor Baker were confident that my draft would be duly paid—but I have very little confidence that we shall hear from you before we return to San Antonio—and so we must continue in the same state of uncertainty

My list of numbered plants and seeds now runs up to nearly eight hundred containing as before some duplicates and some seeds without corresponding specimens—these are most of them very precious & if I can get them safely to Cambridge you may expect a rich treat in the study of them—though they are not remarkably rich in your favorites

I am in excellent health and improve & I dont eat the bread of idleness & have frequently heard the remark as I passed a company of men at play or sitting in conversation "that is a mighty industrious man"

I cant think of any small specimens accessible to send you at this time

With the best wishes for the health of yourself & Madam

I remain

Yours most respectfully

Charles Wright

P.S. A Mexican has just brought me a fine bachelor-button with heads much longer (2 inches) and of a paler color than the common cultivated species

C. W.

Dr Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

San Antonio Nov 25th/49

My Dear Dr

I returned to this place day before yesterday ragged, dirty, & probably lousy & with very few dollars in my pocket. I hope however to be able to go to Port La Vaca in a few days & send my collection Boston-ward

We were on the road forty-two days having admirable weather with the exception of one snow-storm among the Guadalupe hills

I think my plants are in good condition — the numbered lists run up to 1400

The seeds I think I shall retain for a while to select some for distribution among friends to whom I had promised to give some. I fear if I send them on in a mass your pressing business will not allow you to do it

I have not heard a word from my friends in Connecticut & left them — why I am utterly at a loss to know

I received your two letters enclosed one to Dr Devine the other to Capt French

Allow me to remark upon your observation that you would retain the $150 to be paid by Prof. Henry that you had better send it on to me soon if you want me to be benefited by it next summer

The tardiness with which my former collection reached you together with remarks made by me to you in person should suggest to you as much promptness as you can possibly exercise

It may seem strange to you who can send a package 1000 miles in a week that I should advise you to send money to me 2000 distant four months before I shall want it. Yet such is my advice — unless you have such arrangements that I can draw

on New Orleans at any moment — and in that case I should want to draw by the middle of Jan^y that I might have at least six weeks to do the business in & be ready to start by the 12 March Couldn't you get me a draft on the Paymaster at El P^o

You may want to know how much money I want. Well $300 for two years and I dont think I would be willing to go on another campaign like the last and under no more favorable circumstances with less than $300 Next time I am not going on foot I don't relish the thought of starting afoot on a journey of 1300 miles perhaps including all ramblings 2500 without a fair prospect of riding a good deal of the way and a good horse or mule would cost from $60–100

The Dr & I have quarrelled — so there is no prospect of doing any more business through him I was sick & he waited on me and prescribed for me He may bring in a large bill against me I hope he will pay me tomorrow

I dont think my expenses will be great this winter Tell Dr Buckermann & Sullivant that I will remember them the coming winter

I have collected some shells insects & fossil & some minerals With these I hope to procure some elementary work or works on American shells I hope you will give them to some of your conchological friends & tell them that if they will help me to get some knowledge of the subject I will try to extend theirs Some convenient work on American shells would be most acceptable — also one on insects and indeed a whole series like Buschenburgers but a great deal better The accentuation of scientific terms in one of these works — insects is execrable — throwing back the primary accent on the penante-penult

My manuscript notes will need some revision & correction and as some particular creeks & places were called by different names and as those reported by the head of the engineer corps will be the proper ones to which be referred to in the account of my plants it will be important that I have a copy of that report to enable me to correct any errors in my notes

Will you have one sent on to me as soon as possible

If I wish you could send me soon something on mosses & lichens as soon as possible Even the manual you sent me is in the possession of Capt Veatch — so I have not now the first line on those branches of botany Something with figures would be very acceptable The Text book you sent me winter before last was sent on with my trunk & when I left El Paso I was desired by Capt. French to reduce my baggage to the very minimum — so I gave the Flora & Pl. Fendl. to Mrs Henry (not from want of regard for your presents) but to lighten my baggage thinking then that I could procure more when I came north I have been thinking of sending to Prof. De Candolle a set of the plants & soliciting from him in return a copy of the Prodromus What do you think of it? I want the means of studying so that I may hope to become something more than a mere collector

A French gentleman sent out by the French Government to make scientific researches in California & Texas told Capt French at Castroville that his Government would purchase a set of my collections

The plant I sent you is certainly only in outward appearance "like a Fragia" for its 5-celled capsule is many or several seeded

I am sorry to hear that Mrs G still continus feeble.

As you say nothing of your own health I suppose it is good

When I get home (if I ever find out) I will write you more at length Bill - then I remain

Faithfully Yours

Charles Wright

P.S Nov 27 Dr Baker has just paid me the $150 dollars like a gentleman as he shows himself in this transaction I gave him a receipt promising to refund if the draft should not be paid or be lost

Yours C.W.

San Antonio Dec 6/49

Some of the above plants especially the Cactaceae you may not find Becoming rotten I threw them away Some numbers embrace fruit only

I have remained in and about San Antonio now more than two weeks — one week in town waiting an opportunity of sending my collection to the Port — at an expense of $1.50 per day

When I arrived here I was told that carts were going down empty every day and yet my things remain here Tomorrow I must go towards Austin leaving my plants to the generosity or avarice of some citizen of the place The cactuses may be ruined before you receive them — So you see some of the difficulties I have to meet and overcome

In my list of things to be sent I did not enumerate a quantity of Manilla wrapping paper nor India-rubber cloth both of which I ought to have

I would advise you to have every thing packed up in a box which will save wear and loss of the paper which suffers greatly in transportation

I enclose fragments of plants one of which I suppose to be "Limnobium Spongia"? the other of the same order common in the river Like San Marcos floating on the water stemless leaves radiating Cactus bearing flowers in the axils

Will you give me the names — also that of a fragment of an Amaranthus common in the streets here — prostrate

Yours &c. W.

		"	"
		"	"
		"	"
		"	"
		"	"
		"	3
berries pellucid reddish-white — on cedar	17	"	"
Fruit only	7	"	"
	1	"	5
		"	"
— much branched & spreading 3-6 ft (In fruit & some plants with numerous buds)			7
high growing in rubicies gravels Fl white		Nov	7
berries scarlet		"	"
branches bending to the ground & rooting		"	"
On mesquit hackberry &c		"	8
On earth		"	"
On rocks in dark & damp crevices		"	"
" "		"	"
vines		"	11
San Felipe		"	"
Fl white		"	"
		"	12
		"	"
vines		"	"
		"	"
		"	"
		"	"
high		"	"
ing 2-4 ft high		"	"
simple or branching from the root.		"	"
abundant		"	"
		"	"

Wright's Wants

Manilla Wrapping-paper

~~India~~ rubber Cloth

Some work on American Shells to exchange for his shells

Idem Do on Insects

Something on Mosses & Lichens Fijs. specimens

Mr. Lord

Dr. Torrey

Dr. Gray

Dr. Asa Gray

Fine ream paper "five or six quires that they can easily be stored with their contents by one end without breaking down — The rest may be after"

Bot. Books in general to assist him

has
Beaumont
Dr. Lind.
Elliotts Bot
Dr. Mohlenpfordt

Account of Europe the last year.

Lewis on Coal.

Lewis Mineralogy

Paper for Dryers (Title changed to Specimens)

Press Boards not larger than the paper.

Pocket paper for seeds

Case for sister seeds
such as
Dr. Abbadie
Nyctaginaceae

? Treasury notes best way of sending money?

Magnifying glass repaired

Two knives with saws

Better glass

Ollendorf's Spanish Grammar

Treatises on Chemistry

Major Van Horn, Wm
Commander at El Paso
ranked by Gen. Brooke of the
Dept. of New Mexico at Santa Fé
Capt. Brannan 2. M. at El Paso
Patrick Reid at Taos

Sec. of War.

Letter to Gen. Harney
2. M. at San Antonio or Austin

Hammocks

CITY OF BOSTON.

October 5th, 1848.

Sir,

The City Government of Boston intend to celebrate the introduction of Pure Water from Lake Cochituate into the City, on the 25th of October, by a Public Procession, and other Ceremonies suited to the occasion.

You are respectfully invited to join in the same.

JOSIAH QUINCY, Jr.
BENJAMIN SEAVER,
JOHN P. OBER,
WILLIAM D. COOLIDGE,
JOHN P. PUTNAM,
} *Committee on Invitations.*

To

1849

My Dear Doctor

I want to give you a more particular account of my adventures than I could do in the few brief letters written to you since we parted

I wrote to you that at the earnest solicitation of Dr Baker Capt French merely consented to give me transportation for my baggage about 400-500 pounds So I started with the prospect of footing it most of the way The first day of my travels from San Antonio I walked about 15 miles and begged my supper having arrived in camp late at night The next day we went but a short distance to Castroville Here I was asked by the waggon-master if I had permission to put my things in the waggons Being answered in the affirmative he remarked that they might remain till Capt French came up thus intimating that they would be carried no longer At Castroville it rained on us & I had no chance to air my plants till the expiration of two days when I found most of them wet After five days I secured a place to board with one of the messes I ate for a while I had an easy time We stayed nine days on the Medina during which I gave that stream and the adjacent prairies a pretty good examination For one month I got along pretty well Meantime I had got in with Dr Baker and occupied a part of his tent assisting him in stretching & striking it & aiding him otherwise in loading & unloading his camp equipage But about the 4th July the mess into which I had been admitted broke up in order to get rid of their noisy disagreeable cook & I was told that I could stay with part of it or join another A short time before however the Dr had with two or three others formed a mess & wished me to join him which I did thinking it would be more convenient for me My new mess however was soon broken up by the waggon-masters who refused to allow the cook (who was an extra hand) to devote so much time to the work of the mess I then tried to get back into my old mess but it was full & would not take me

The Doctor had already tried to get into some of the more respectable messes & failed & I was told at that time that no mess in the train would receive him I could have got into almost any mess if I had drawn a ration I saw then no other chance but to try and live the Dr & I on his ration with what we could buy from time to time I then agreed to do most of the cooking and we formed a mess between us and all went on well for a while It was not long however before the Dr began to find fault with the cookery more than I thought was necessary in a camp The tea was too strong or too weak the rice was bitter with smoke the bread was dough or burnt to a coal & the coffee was muddy or else as ice If anything fell it was smashed If wood was scarce "there was not enough to put in a humming-birds eye"* If anything was cooking too slowly then was not a particle of fire under it If anything was broken I broke it So it was with every remark intended for censure – it was couched in the most hyperbolical language he was master of He annoyed me most excessively too by another practice to which he is much addicted – backbiting His remarks on any subject whatever commonly end by "don't you think so" or "is it" or "aint it" thus he wishes his hearers to endorse his opinions I would sometimes dissent when an argument would surely spring up which ended by his silencing not convincing me I have frequently snored and pretended to be asleep in a vain assenting to his interrogatories after we had gone to bed I had at last to beg him to cease asking me to backbite men who had done me no harm At first we used to sing together Gradually we ceased to do it – then showing a cooling of our friendship Sometimes we would read in the Bible to one another Finally we paid entirely through later to do this At last I was never so well pleased as when he was gone away For three months I suffered thus till we were about to start back when I bought a ration & joined another mess with whom (three besides myself) I had not an unpleasant word all the way back

If I supposed I should have no easier and pleasanter time in future one good collector would be spoiled but I will try it another campaign if I can secure land stations

*thus censuring me for not collecting wood before coming into camp

The Doctor is also exceedingly vain On the Leona he asked me to assist him in coloring his white locks which show below his hat

I was disgusted at the vanity which led him to seek to conceal his age among a parcel of men and in a wilderness I believe he guessed my thoughts and he asked me but once more to do him the same favor – but continued to go through the operation alone I believe he represented himself as younger – 48 – than he really is It was also very annoying to him that any one should differ from him in opinion Somehow he managed to gain the ill will of nearly every individual in the company how I could never exactly understand nor others either He generally was attentive to the sick – but there was something in his manner ill suited to such a company as he was thrown among At last he became a general subject of conversation and ridicule when several of the men would be assembled together The subject of ducking him in the creek was once proposed & seriously discussed even in the early part of the season – on our outward march

I was taken sick at Devils river and he prescribed for me – how much good he did me I am not able to say He almost strangled me by a new-fashioned way of giving me quinine Certain it is I got well and as certain that I did not take his last prescription – quinine with which he had kept my head ringing for several days I thought I had taken enough & the event proved the soundness of my opinion I attribute my sickness to excessive labor & a little imprudence I had botanized all the earlier part of the day before we left Devils river I then took my clothes through the process of ablution and then cooked till late in the night and went to bed with a pain in my side the next day fever came on & continued five or six days reducing me as it always does very rapidly After about two days however I was able to attend to my plants I lost by my sickness the chance of examining a very interesting part of the route – that between Devils river & the Pecos & I made a very imperfect

journey of the Pecos & the route for some distance by the

On the return journey we started [illegible] return
by the upper or Fredericksburg route as follows: back
to the Pecos crossing two difficult ridges of mountains which
however I found to contribute some interesting plants to my collection

By degrees the vegetation as we came eastward assumed its
autumnal dress & many fine things, interesting the mosses
& bulbs which you wished me to collect largely hardly
appearing yet in consequence of the dryness of the weather

I walked a good deal, the day's driving being by turns
occasionally collecting plants as I rambled round & then
looking in the streams for mollusks. Before reaching Val Verde
however I had ceased to collect any but as we approached
occasional rocking and shelling to the fine plants which
were not quite dry

Now to explain my quarrel with the Dr. I do not
bear contradiction & I could not help suggesting [illegible] from
him when an argument would arise & he would always
finish with "don't you think so" I made a point of according him
as much as possible. Well in descending Pecos River we had
some bad road - the mules at a certain place missed the ford
& had gone a little ahead & sat down on a hillside and a
little after the Dr. & men took a road near me - in this road

After some criticism from him on the conduct of the expedition
& matters & manners & mules & a nigger [illegible] which
had been stolen & came out in pursuit & made the marvellous
observation that "there was another nigger which had been
stolen" He denied it & I had been sitting for half an hour
watching the efforts of the drivers to extricate their team &
could not do otherwise than assent my proud remarks

After two or three aggravations and denials he told me I
lied & I struck him in the face one blow which I might
& I wish have repeated but I was heartily sorry that he should

forget the gentleman and become rowdy enough to give another mint julep and constrain me to become rowdy with you. I must to-day repel the charge of my having given an air of more than ordinary importance to the [illegible] of speaking terms with the honorable Isaac McCoy, the [illegible] and nothing more to do with him — He has many good qualities but his [illegible] is not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

And now a few words respecting future operations. I am [illegible] by Capt Lynch in hearing [illegible] to reduce my own baggage to the very minimum as I am sure that when we reach Leavenworth I shall give away the Herald & Pedlar. Mrs Henry Hall has a small quantity of my paper & I shall endeavour to keep [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] next year provision [illegible] [illegible] them [illegible] with their contents so that the sheets can readily be rolled by one end without breaking [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

here and there a speck to diversify the page and I do not know how I am to recover the time I have thus lost If you could send me something containing a compendious account of the history of Europe for the last year (if such a work can be procured) it would be most acceptable

I have collected a few shells fossil & recent which you can give to some enchol real fiend — perhaps he could send me some book on that subject by which I could gain some knowledge of that branch of natural science — and enable me to extend his Some small work on other branches of natural science containing the elements of that Science as Dana's Mineralogy &c would be very acceptable especially if I should spend the next winter in Mexico or any where beyond the Rio Grande Any bill you may make for me in this way you can pay with the proceeds of the sale of specimens

My press boards were left with my papers at El Paso — Will you therefore have some made for me and of such a size that they shall be not larger than the paper to be put between them — a little less would do — then the corners & edges would not be ~~bruised~~ worn off & mashed by striking against other substances

A good deal of that massa paper of which you gave me some quires I have used for my packages of seeds If you would throw in some more into the main stock I would make use of it in the same way

I have selected a portion of the seeds of the more showy plants and distributed them among friends one of which you will please forward to the gentleman to whom it is directed & I must beg of you to reserve a few for my sisters such as you may think of easy cultivation — annuals — as Nyctaginaceae some of which are very beautiful & convolvulus &c This I think you can do with very little trouble when you are examining them for yourself

I could hardly help smiling at your remark that I must decide whether I should return or stay at El Paso the truth is I was oblige to come back or starve — but I suppose you thought I had been living all this time on Uncle Sams bread & butter and saving my money for I am from it — if Mr Baker had not paid me the drafts I could not have forwarded my packages to Port Lavaca and then had money left to buy me a pair of shoes must I to pay my board here for a week (at $1.50 per day) and then get passage on stage to Austin

Now I shall pay 5-6 dollars for the carriage of my collections to Port Lavaca — and as the bears of N. Texas have picked nearly all my clothing in — not pieces or threads — but fibres I must lay in a new supply Suppose you calculate what I need and its cost in Boston — then add 150-200 per cent. and you will come pretty near what I will have to pay Then I shall have some travelling expenses and some board bills — probably — but I may collect a few debts — though it's mighty uncertain Well put all these certainties and uncertainties together and then guess if you are a yankee or next thing to it a New Yorker all the same to a southerner north of Mason & Dixons line) how much money I will have to start on in the spring I shant start so light as I did last spring or summer By the way would not Treasury notes be the best way of sending me money Some of your rich fellows might send a few hundreds and not feel it

I hope you will get me some support from the Sec of War and other great men at Washington for the next campaign in the way of instruction to his dependents to facilitate my operations Capt French will not be here I shall have to apply to some other Quartermaster for assistance I think Prof Henry might do much for me if he knew what difficulties I have had to encounter

I promised Capt French that if I went North I would present a set of my plants in his name as a testimonial of my gratitude for the favors rendered me to the Smithsonian Institute or another Scientific association (I forget the name) in Philadelphia of which he said a committee of members of Congress were Curators I must ask you please as you are with your own business to do this but in the introduction to the account of my collection he and Dr Baker should receive great ~~credit~~ commendation for their assistance Dr B. brought to me while I was sick the first specimen of a new sp. of Leucophyllum If it should prove to be new let it be named "Bakeri"

I send a magnifying glass which I wish you would get repaired for me

You will recollect that we went to the store of a gardener in Boston & bought some knives one of which had a saw in it That was stolen & I lost the other Send me if you can a couple more with a saw in them

It will be best hereafter to make my shipping post Port Lavaca and any thing sent there for me may be consigned to "Jonas Randall" You can send to New Orleans any day and a steamboat runs twice a week from that place to Port Lavaca Nevertheless ~~I have~~ I should not expect to receive a package sent by those places under two months unless you have a more accommodating press in New Orleans than I have any where in the South

My numbered list of plants with notices of localities, remarks, &c I shall keep & copy and then transmit to you by mail

I enclose a fragment of a plant Nat. Or. Solanaceæ Can you give me its name

I hope to hear from you immediately on the various matters mentioned in this letter the length of which is enough to frighten you if you were not used to long letters Meanwhile God bless you & prosper you Best wishes to Mrs Gray

Affectionately Yours

Charles Wright

San Marcos Dec 29th 1849

My dear Dr.

I wrote to you at length from San Antonio some three weeks ago and promised to write again when I found a home if ever such an event took place I am now at Col. Foyles sometimes dressing deerskins sometimes hunting & gathering mosses & lichens By the way I hope you will keep on the lookout for a glass for me The one I have merely enables me to count the teeth of the antes fenistome of mosses and to distinguish one small sp. of Jungermannia from another ~~without~~ but not to determine the species If you should be able after the receipt of this send me another Ollendorfs Spanish Grammar On my return from El Paso with the full determination of going north again this winter I sold the one which I bought in Boston last winter Could you also send me some convenient treatise on Chemistry as a book of reference—such for instance on the science of Chemistry as Dana's mineralogy is to that science I believe I desired you to send me Dana's mineralogy

Major Van Horn is commander of the post at El Paso but is (Gen Brooke I believe)
ranked by the commander of the department at Santa Fe and is subject to the orders of the latter Capt. Bowman is I believe Q. M. at El Paso I should suppose a commendatory letter from the Sec. of War would be of greater service to me than one from any other officer of Govmt. I hope you will make such exertions as to secure me rations* for the next campaign without any doubt or contingency for when my mind is not at ease on that matter I can not labor with that zeal and freedom which the field I shall enter in South demand Capt French will not be Q. M. here next year I hope you will get me a letter from Washington to Gen Harney who by this means may be induced to favor me though he cares not a straw about me or my pursuits and to the Q. M. at San Antonio or Austin whoever he may be This you can ascertain through Prof. Henry with more certainty

* Officers have power to sell rations and if highly recommended I might get rations through one of

than I can My extremely dependent condition the last summer caused me no little mortification & if I thought it would be no better in future I would abandon the business

You may think that my desire for books is unreasonable but with the prospect of spending the next winter somewhere in Mexico or on the frontier excluded in a good degree from intelligent society entirely deprived of periodical literature I shall want some works on science with which to improve my leisure time and a vast field will be opened before me for the study of all branches of Nat. Hist.

The hammock if you still have it you may send back to me I shall be able to turn it to good account next summer

I enclose some diction for Mr Dickerman which I hope he will examine and give me the names of them & if he desires it I will send him others direct or through you

Dec 31st Last week we had very warm weather but yesterday we had a norther with sleet & it is still quite cold for this country

Remember me to Mrs Gray and friends in Cambridge and write me whenever you have any thing interesting to communicate and time to spare

Sincerely Yours

Charles Wright

San Marcos Jan 4 /50

My Dear Dr

I should not have troubled you so soon
again but for the sake of a friend to whom I am
indebted for many acts of kindness

Last year when I passed through Austin I
wrote soliciting you to send certain books to Mr
Hugh McClure of that city they have not
been received & I dont know whether you need
my letter they were "Allens Agriculturist
Book of the Farm" "The Scientific American 6 months
commencing 1st Jany 1850" "The Working Farmer Edited by
Prof. J. Mapes from its commencement" By the
prospectus it was to have been issued in Feby last
He wants the back numbers of this last and to sub-
scribe for the present year also

It was his understanding that the above mentioned
works were transmissable by mail

By sending or directing to be sent these works you
will much oblige a friend of mine and consequently me
Charge them to me & Mr McC will pay me whenever
called on

Now a word of botanical matters I am gathering the mosses
& lichens of this neighborhood but at present most of my time

is spent in skinning for next year I mean to have some leather clothing as a protection against the briars & thorns of Western Texas & Mexico & provided I shall travel in that Republic

In my last letter to you I enclosed some Lichens for Mr Buckermann Tell him that I will put up some more in a few days the names of which I wish him to report to me

I found yesterday in spring plant making good use of a few warm days we are now enjoying and nearly in full bloom It is Umbelliferous and abundant in the San Marcos valley I will get a specimen and send with the Lichens or in some other way soon

I am waiting for letters from you & from home with considerable impatience

I send herewith a communication which I wish be glad you wish hand to your professor of Chemistry or any other person or persons who you think wish give me the theory of the process I have described & oblige

Yours sincerely

Chas L Wright

San Mateos Feby 14/1857

My Dear Dr

Your letter of Jany 2nd has just come to hand & without delay I hasten to make some remarks on the matter therein contained

It seems almost impossible to make you who live amid so many stage-coach and rail-road facilities comprehend the difficulties I have to contend with You say "I should pay some merchant for forwarding &c." Now let me tell you that I tried to effect "that same" as the Paddy would say and could not come it* I waited as long as I could for you to find a conveyance to Port Lavaca firmly resolving to stick to my collections till safe on shipboard This failed too After sending them by stage that is (not naturally) but conditionally impossible It would have cost me probably twenty dollars if the stage proprietors would have carried them which they wouldn't do

I suppose I received all your letters though I think the one enclosed to Capt French was not delivered to me so soon as received though no blame can be attached to him as he handed it to me the first time we met The last time I spoke with Dr Baker on the subject he said he had received no acknowledgment of the payment of the draft I suppose & still think he told me the truth

You do Capt French a little injustice in supposing that he asked for two sets of my collections I intended from the beginning that the Smithsonian Institute should have a set either by sale or gift & mentioned this as one motive why Capt French should grant me some facilities But he seemed disposed that the National Inst. should be the depository of it yet my resolution as to its disposal was not altered

I dont think many of my plants will be found "over and over" though some will and I think when you see them and consider my other labors you will think I have done pretty well and hit the mark when I aimed at about a dozen specimens of each specie Nor will you find many in too few specimens to distribute

You want to know my plans I have none. I must be governed by circumstances I would go by the first good opportunity It is reported here that the Authorities (military) will hire Mexican carts to transport their stores Under these circumstances whether I can get conveyance I do not know I could probably learn by writing to Maj Babbitt the Quartermaster whether any facilities and how great will be extended to me My expenses will depend much on the extent of the favors shown me

You overrate (I think) my abilities when you put in your bill for 20 sets Last year I aimed at a dozen and had my hands full with them

You speak of Tindle's misfortune I know nothing about it There is a blank in my memory which should be filled with the current events of the last year

I managed very well without my plant boards on my return and did not remit my labors on that acct. at all but my collections were quite small as compared with those made on my outward route I could not ask Mrs Henry for the Yucca which I considered as a present to her I was then fully resolved to go north and thought I could easily get another copy If you can send me another (& charge it to me of course) it will be a favor Send the papers if you please and any thing else which you can get which you would wish to receive in my situation

I am doing all I can for Tuckerman & Sullivant while preparing me some buckskin rigging for the trans Pecos country Western Texas I am staying with Col Kyle now dressing deerskins now hunting deer & (I killed an old buck yesterday and a turkey today) turkeys now gathering lichens & mosses particularly on rainy days

I wrote to you but a short time since informing you of the shipment of the plants & I suppose you are by this time in the receipt of them

I want to go to the low country towards the gulf where I think I can make a good collection of cryptogamae & perhaps get some money Last year I had no house Now I mean to have one so that I can make more extensive excursions the next campaign I have something over $100 left & I have some few debts to pay as well as a considerable number which I ought to receive payment

I shall very much miss your correspondence ~~very much~~ when you are gone to Europe

You dont say whether you have published any more of the Flora Doubtless I shall hear from you immediately on the arrival of the collections Till then adieu

Yours truly

Chas Wright

* There is no one in San Antonio who does Commission & Forwarding business

P.S. What shall I do with the Lichens Mosses &c when I start for the Rio Grande again

If Dr Torrey should claim a full set, which according to the letter of our bargain he is entitled he will get the best end of it & might well afford to throw in some labor in their distribution

C.W.

P.S. 2d I sent you a little plant in (I think) my letter from San Felipe creek which I supposed a Potamogeton You have forgotten that I suppose & the stream which I have called Devil's river I see the engineers have named San Pedro You can make the necessary change

Remember me to Mrs G. C.W.

San Marco
Tex Feb 5

10

Dr Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

San Marcos March 8th/50

My dear Sister

I have just received yours of Jany 27 and would have answered it before but I have been gone down to Columbus and Alleyton on business

I have made such arrangements that my letters will be duly forwarded to me whether directed to Austin or San Antonio and I always of late make such arrangements whenever I leave a place to reside in another I have probably received all your letters and have duly answered them long ago perhaps, but touching upon all matters that I thought essential

I hope you will take my word that I did not neglect my business while waiting patiently, not "supinely" at San Antonio Believe me that I can judge better than you of the ease or difficulty of transacting such a business affair as I had on hand in San Antonio If the same business was to be done in Cambridge or Boston or New-York you could manage it far better than I and you might transact the same business here far better than I could But I hope you will not enter judgment against me in Cambridge when the court should be held at San Antonio

Let me tell you a word about hauling in this country There are waggons not a few now on the road between Austin and Houston which have been three weeks, yea months

and with the prospect of staying there some weeks longer

I wrote you in my last that the packages could not be carried in the stage It not unfrequently happens that passengers are obliged to leave a part or the whole of their baggage or stay behind themselves

I wrote some time since to Gen Brooke asking for transportation &c No answer has been received from his silence I judge that I have nothing to expect from that quarter I now learn from common report that the hauling is let out on contract at $10-11 per hundred-of course I will have to pay the same or stay at home My present opinion is that my next summers trip will prove a "no go" The train starts on the 15th April little more than a month hence and no preparations are yet made so far as I know for enabling me to start with it.

You have once or twice said that you would send packages for me to New Orleans "to be sent for" so I said nothing about forwarding in my last Any thing for me can be forwarded to Fulton & Hemley Port La Vaca where I can get them by some means sooner or later It is the most convenient place to send to from this part of the country

I hope before this you will have learned that I have assumption enough not to "pack up the fleshy baits with the dried plants"

I have now touched upon the principal matters in your letter I mean to go to San Antonio soon & see what I can do in person though I think our arrangements for next summers operations will fail I will not relax my exertions

I have now a good horse, to procure which has somewhat reduced my funds and outlay for clothing and travelling expenses has also drawn largely upon them

If I had time now I might collect $100 or more perhaps

If I have made no arrangements for my next summers work other than those of going to El Paso & Desert &c if these should fail could you give me any employment that would benefit you and be instructive to me and eventually better fit me for following up our present plans I have a strong inclination to go north and see my friends but I willingly yielded last fall in hopes of prosecuting my botanical researches the ensuing summer under more favorable auspices If after making all honorable exertions I should fail I must be thrown on my old profession-teaching- or turn my attention to farming or spend my time almost unprofitably

When you go to Europe please remember that I want a good microscope Consult your own judgment on which I rely much more than on my own You can doubtless pay for one with a set of 5 or part of one of 6 of my collections

I would also like a copy of Endlicher's Enchiridion

I enclose (I might have done it before but did not think it necessary) the bill of lading of my packages among which you must by now be luxuriating

I wish you much pleasure on your visit to Europe & hope it may redound to your advantage professionally and pecuniarily I am anxious to know whether the Flora is making any progress and whether the Plantae Fendlerianae is complete I feel deeply the want of something on the lower

families of plants especially the Endogens

Give my respects to Mrs G. and accept my wishes for your long life health & prosperity

Affectionally Yours

Chas Wright

P.S. I wrote that I had received no answer from Gen. Brooke It was mislaid & has just been handed to me I enclose it

C. W.

P.S. 2nd I have now plenty of fine specimens of Gyalicla pusilla & Lepuropetalon spathulatum Tillaea Drummondii and can send them to any one who wants

C W

San Marcos March 9th/30

My Dear Lr

I returned yesterday from an excursion down the river and found yours of the 27th [illegible] wanting my return and today yours of the 10th ult. was received announcing the arrival of the packages I answered your former one immediately and [illegible] not again write so soon now it is that I do not remark some things in your last require, remark

You write that the packages "came without previous announcement." You will recollect that I left them in San Antonio to be forwarded They were shipped the last of Dec & it was some two weeks before I rec'd account of shipment with bill of lading I thought you would receive the packages before I could send you account of shipment Besides I thought it was customary for Com. Merchants to send bill of lading to consignees as well as consignor and by this channel you would receive notice of shipments While on this subject allow me to propose plan of forwarding &c You have once or twice written me that you would send to New Orleans packages "to be sent for" Now why not give your consignees [illegible] general directions to forward to Fulton & Hensley Port Lavaca and uniformly ship through them It will save expense of correspondence storage in N.O. and may in the event of miscarriage of letters be of the utmost importance A steamboat runs between the two places once or twice per week

You seem a little disappointed at not finding enough "for 20 sets" I wrote you that I aimed only at about a dozen & if I have fallen below my mark it is no more than what usually happens I thought I had given you an account sufficiently graphic of my labors and troubles to graduate your expectations

to my ability Besides in our intercourse face to face & by letter you have never held out the prospect of a sale for more than 6–8 sets then why want me to kill myself in collecting more than would be of any use to us? You ought to remember that in this hot climate I can not safely undergo the same fatigue ~~in safety~~ that I could in that of N. England What I collected last summer ought to be worth 600–800 dollars at the most reasonable estimate and if I am satisfied with that Surely you ought to be

In my last I told you of my application to Gen Brook for transportation &c and enclosed his answer and gave you my opinion of my prospects When the letter arrive from Washington I will go to San Antonio & see Gen Brooke Perhaps the letter may soften his gizzard I think I gave you in one of my former letters my views of sending me funds Quartermaster's drafts would probably be available or U.S. Treasury notes, they might be sent in letters or in any other way you may think proper *

I also gave you in one of my letters my plans as far as I had any I am ready to go to El Paso by the first opportunity and thence in any practicable way to Desert if I can get conveyance The prospect now is that I shall have to pay 10–15 dollars per cwt for hauling to El Paso; how much thence to Desert "quien sabe" Perhaps on these terms I can go to El Paso if not I can stay here

Direct your letters to San Marcos until you know of my departure to El Paso thenceforward to the latter place I should have given you definite instructions how to send letters but my stay at San Marcos was very uncertain & I did not know where I should spend the winter I made arrangements to have all letters promptly forwarded

* Drafts on N. Orleans would be negotiable here I think but I doubt whether bills on you in Boston could be converted into specie unless my connection with you and my business transactions were better understood

I want you to give me some definite idea of the value of the seeds and Cacti for on their worth will depend my exertions in collecting another year It is a very troublesome business to collect & preserve the latter plants and I shall not go very largely into it unless with a fair prospect of reasonable compensation

I am now arranging my winter's collection of Musci &c (By the way in one of my letter to you I enclosed a note containing mosses directed to Sullivant I also wrote to him some two years ago Nor answers have been received Some bad luck must befall my attempts at correspondence or he does not notice small fry like me If I were sure the latter was the case he would not notice my collections either and this time they may be worth his notice I think I shall hold on to them till I am satisfied that he thinks I am somebody) I shall separate them into three packages one containing Musci & Hepaticae (intended for Sullivant) one Lichenes for Tuckerman and the other (a small one) Fungi for Bulkley or Curtis &c. But I shall leave the disposal of them reasonably to your judgment

N.B. Why did not you enquire for a Commission House of the owners of the Bark Robert Walsh?

I killed two turkies this morning and if it would please you I would wish they had been fatter and you had one of them today for dinner

One word more about the small number of sets First I had not time to collect more 2nd I worked hard enough to save all that I did collect 3d I would not have had any paper to use on my return and would thus have missed many interesting plants 4th I was under continual dread of complaints at the quantity that I was accumulating

Now my dear Doctor if you have any doubts that I managed my business as well as I could look over my letters carefully and compare my accounts of my doings with the results & if you are not convinced at least give me credit for acting according

to the judgment God has given me in good faith towards you & my other patrons and with no unreasonably selfish desires for my own personal benefit. My great desire is to improve myself increase as much as possible my knowledge of the Science to which I have devoted myself yet not to neglect the kindred Sciences and extend the limits of the knowledge of our own natural history

Remember me to Mrs G. & other friends in C.

Affectionately Yours

Charles Wright

San Marcos Ap. 10th/50

My Dear Dr.

It is a rainy day & I occupy a portion of it in observation on your last two communication containing the letter from Washington

Immediately on the receipt of your letter informing me of shipment of paper on the Bark R. Walsh I wrote to Wm Hendley & co. Galveston to look out for it & forward to Port Lavaca "care of Fulton & Hendley" to whom I wrote at the same time asking them to look out for it then I received answer from the latter that they would receive it & give me immediate notice Fifty days since shipment have now elapsed and no intelligence of paper received I am afraid your neglect to send to a consignee will cause a fatal delay I gave you sufficient notice early in the winter of the necessity of making timely arrangements for next Summer's operations and of the embarrassing delays attending commercial transactions here. Suppose my letter to Hendley miscarried or suppose he neglects to attend to my requests or suppose the receivers of the lading of the Bark will not give themselves the trouble to hunt among their store for the articles directed to me—you see the consequences. It would certainly have been but little trouble to find in a Galveston paper a commission house or by enquiring of the owners of the Bark

Again it seems I am dependent upon myself for my hauling Knowing this I wrote to a friend in San Antonio to enquire for me whether I could hire hauling and received in answer that a carretero would haul 500-600 pounds at $10 per Cwt but I can not make any contract until I receive the means of making an honorable one My hands are tied so far as making any definite arrangement for hauling is concerned until I receive remittances of money I gave you my views of sending proceeds of sale of specimens It is now too late to write on the matter—if the money is not on the way it need not be sent I exceedingly regret that I did not go north as I intended though in that case I should not have made the very considerable

collection of Mosses &c which I have secured the past winter I shall go to Austin in a few days and will try to sell drafts on you & on Washington though I have no belief that I will succeed There are few men that understand how a gatherer of weeds & grasses can convert them into money and unless a man has negroes or land his exertions to raise money are looked upon with suspicion

Again suppose I sell drafts and in the mean time you contrive means to send me the money you must honor them or I shall get the character of a villain and I will not be here to vindicate myself

I am very glad to receive the letters from Prof. Henry & the Sec. of War I have no doubt they will be very useful, also the one from Bernhisel

Leas Naiades came to hand & I was not a little vexed to receive a thing so useless through the P.O. and I was preparing a pretty considerable scold but your apology for the good Prof. A. came in time to pacify me You will not wonder at the low value I set upon it when I tell you it contains but one solitary description

Sullivant writes that he is in communication with me Perhaps he means that I am in communication with him — for nothing from him has ever reached me

You are too late with the Flora — should have sent it with the other things You seem to forget that about sixty days are required to send a request to Cambridge and receive an answer

You need not be particular to raise a "full set" for me if it should interfere, at all, with the sale of sets My plan must be to effect as large a sale as possible to enable me to continue my exploration.

I have a few more shells for Agassiz which I will send with the mosses &c in May probably It seems difficult to get books on conchology Would it be too great a favor to ask the Prof to write to me and enclose pencil sketches of such things as I have sent him for a copy of engravings if any should be made) with the names annexed

Ap 26 Let the above go for what it is worth Since writing it I have been to Austin where I made some efforts to sell drafts and though I did not succeed I am not without hopes of doing so I have no intelligence of the arrival of my papers and can do nothing till it arrives — can make no contracts for hauling nor any definite arrangements for my next summers business It is time all the preparations should be completed I will hold myself in readiness so far as I can do so to start when any opportunity occurs The Government train will probably start between the 1st & 10th prox.

It will hardly be possible for me to be ready to go with it My remaining chance will be to go with some California Company and a "slim chance" I consider it But I will continue looking about me while any hope remains

I hope you will give heed to my suggestions respecting shipments &c contained in a previous letter It is a source of great anxiety to me to be looking out day after day for things sent to me and all the while to be in uncertainty whether or not I will receive them Day after day I have remained here hoping that next mail would bring me some letters, when I was anxious to be away attending to other business I left home two weeks ago reluctantly and in great anxiety and now on my return find nothing to relieve that anxiety

But I wont trouble you any more I am in fine health

Remember me to Mrs G.

Ever

Yours most sincerely

Chas Wright

AUSTIN
MAY
1
Texas

10

Dr. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

San Marcos Oct 15th 1850

My Dear Dr

I returned yesterday from San Antonio prepared to settle down once more at my old profession=pedagogism You will probably be surprised and vexed at the unfortunate result of all our plans & negotiations If I did not know the difficulties I would have to meet and the sufferings to be endured in a winter expedition over the woodless plains between the settlements & El Paso I should be mad enough to cry over my disappointments or as some one says "cussin mad" But every thing considered I am pretty well reconciled to it & would be entirely so had I not been treated so ungentlemanly As soon as I heard of the arrival in our state of the Commissioner I wrote to him at San Antonio and had my paper & trunk carried there two or three month ago The party remained a long time at Indianola and I heard nothing or but little of them through the papers I thought when the Commissioner went to San Antonio he would answer my letter After a while becoming impatient I went to San Antonio but the Commission was still at Indianola—however I made arrangements to be informed of its arrival in San Antonio and a few days ago I received intelligence that the party was in San Antonio and would start on this day I went there on the 12th inst but the Commissioner had started two days before in a forced march He had however been very particular to give me no intelligence of his movements His brother whom I saw & conversed with apologized for the neglect of me by ~~his~~ the Commissioner thus—"that his letter to Prof. Henry which I showed him was written previous to his appointment as Commissioner"!!! It would seem that he had some favorite of his own to appoint to a fat office - Dr Thurber (I saw a volunteer note from him to Mr Lindheimer promising to call & see him—the promise however unfulfilled So—a pig for the promises of

Washington Officials) A cheering spot is however sometimes seen in the vast desert of human selfishness Such an one I found in the pleasant smile of Maj Babbitt and his kind promise to give me transportation to El Paso He has been long enough in the south (if not a native) to have imbibed that noble & disinterested generosity which so eminently distinguishes Southern Gentlemen or more probably he was a gentleman originally & by nature I am disposed to believe that but little love for Texas or any of her citizens can be found at Washington during the recess of Congress much less any where north of that Of course I make exception I received a very kind letter from Dr Torrey a short time ago I shall ever remember your and others' kindness who have assisted me You may have the benefit of Dr Thurber's collection but I question whether he will climb hills and wade ditches and pierce thickets as I would do If he dont don a buckskin dress he will endanger his broadcloth One of the attachés of the expedition wanted to buy paper and if I had been a couple of days earlier I would have sold him mine — and the second time sacrificed my botanizing apparatus for ready money & to save the expense of transportation & retransportation I paid $4.30 Charges at Port Lavaca some three or four more for hauling here $2.67 more for hauling to San Antonio — the same to be paid for hauling back & when I shall have it carried again to San Antonio next Spring (when I hope to get off) you see it will have cost me not much less than the prime cost I paid more than twice as much as I ought to have paid for carrying my collection to Port Lavaca a year ago ($16.00) You may not see the necessity of all these goings & returnings but I hope you will give me the credit of acting wisely according to my ability You have never been in Texas and can not know all the circumstances by which my actions are governed and were I to detail them it would but serve to consume your time to read them

You may think it strange that I need ready money when you sent me so much by Mr Bartlett Whether he had it or not he failed to let me know it His whole conduct towards me was a piece of "masterly forgetfulness" *

I have a little money but the $150 paid me by Dr Baker is nearly gone and would have been entirely spent had I not collected some small sum due me I shall probably make $125 the coming winter So I am not at all troubled at present only I have a natural Yankee curiosity to know what has become of the $379.11

Some philosopher reviewing a day spent without doing good said he "had lost a day" Methinks he had less philosophy than myself who can look back upon the last season and say almost with truth "I have lost a summer" I give the word "philosophy" a wide latitude of meaning My papers arrived late in the season I sent it away soon after, receiving it or I would have been very glad to save a set of plants for myself and for exchange but that I had no safe place to leave them when I should go west I an expression in one of your letters "you had better not", I was not well thought of to send that Texan bundle" dissuaded me from sending them to you I saw Lindheimer also had some pleasant talk with him He seems to be poor — richer however than I am — he has a wife & two children I long to get another letter from you I wrote you a long letter some time ago directing it to Cambridge You did not tell me when you would return but I hoped and guessed you would be at home by the time it would reach there

I sent my cryptogamics to Dr Torrey and they have been received — also I left a small package with Lindheimer to be sent on with his I hope you will look after these and if they can be turned to any account see that I receive in some way the benefit of them I would not be this particular had not my earnings been so small and my expenses & loss of time so great You can not but notice that in this & my former letter I have written with some despondency & bitterness of feeling Though I do

* His brother however says "he never forgets anything" — except fulfilment of promises

not feel sensibly the approach of age I can not but know that I am growing old and what is worse an old bachelor The vexatious suspense in which I have been kept the two years past has operated powerfully to prevent me from putting off old bachelorism or making some attempts thereat Perhaps I put too high an estimate on my talents and am disposed to think some favors shown to others not appreciated at their true value For instance I can not but be vexed when I think of Prof. Agassiz sending me so useless a thing as that catalogue & shall I pack it full of plants & send it off again

P.S. I owe you an apology for not writing sooner but I have been so busy since my return from New Brunswick & Canada that I could not find time to write a letter

Dr Asa Gray

I made a remark, a few days since, implying Southern sectional feeling I saw in a late paper a list of things some person had never known one of which is "I never have known a political" (I'd say religious) abolitionist that wants to put a negro in his bed bed" I don't wish Seward "et hoc genus omne" hung or drowned but I do wish all of them could be made to sleep with a big buck nigger every night (and it needn't not be long) till they renounced of their (political) iniquities You northerners (I mean only political abolitionists) may think you are doing right but you know little of the trouble & which you are laying the foundation However I have filled my sheet with moralizing & perhaps more than you wished

Yours ever

C. Darwin

New Braunfels Comal Co. Dec 30/58

My Dear Dr.

I have just received your letter, under date of Oct 23, from Pyrtilas House, Hereford, England.

At times, I can hardly repress a smile, when I think of our sanguine expectations & our large calculations for the year now expiring. It reminds me of the verse of the poet:

Parturiunt montes, &c. ———

——— ridiculus mus.

I am anxious to explain, at length, the causes of my failure; and to remove from your mind some slightly erroneous impressions under which you seem to be laboring. But I fear to trespass, too largely, on your valuable time. If I did not mention the receipt of the "various missives" sent me by you; it is, because I supposed all had arrived, and that supposed exceptions to a general rule, need no specification.

The 379½ dollars, which you thought would be brought me by Mr Bartlett, have not been received. You wrote to me, as if you had sent the money to Washington; but, Prof Henry informs me, that it was in the form of a draft on the Library Committee of Congress; & that, only recently, have the appropriations been made & the draft paid. It is of no consequence, as I have not wanted the money. I only mention it for your satisfaction.

You wrote me under date of 30th May, "I trust you will make no attempt to start before the Commissioner's party arrives." I guess I have complied, strictly, with that recommendation. I had not, then, got my paper, & knew not when it was. I had asked you to send such things to New Orleans, with instructions to forward. You would have done very well to send to Galveston, to a consignee: but, how did I know what course to take to find it. I wrote, immediately, to Hendley & Co, into whose hands, I afterwards learned, it had fallen, who had done some business for me before, to take charge of it & give me notice of it & forward. They did only the first. Now, what

more could I do in such a case? Write to all the merchants of Galveston? At length, I bethought me of a friend, to whom I wrote on the subject; & he had it forwarded promptly. Thus, I was satisfied, that the things were in Port Lavaca, although the letter of the consignees, then, (if they wrote me) never came to hand.

Mr Sullivant's excuse for not writing to me, is a lame one; for, I always, have my letters, as you well know, in such a manner as to guide my correspondent, ~~enquirer~~, in their directions. Had he directed them to San Antonio or Austin or San Marcos, I would have received them; unless they miscarried somewhere on the route.

I have looked over all your letters, and can find but one intimation of the length of your sojourn in Europe. That is, under date of 2nd. June, thus: "I can do nothing more for a full year for you." I call it an intimation, merely. Why, then, should not I, a Yankee, guess that you would soon return home?

I suppose I have received all your letters, unless you wrote me, stating the length of your probable absence. I can detect no gap in the connection of the several before me.

The next paragraph, somehow, I dont like: it seems to indicate that I have written something to hurt your feelings. If so, I beg (ten thousand pardons & more if you please)

You write, "I, really, have done the best I can for you, & must decline, for the present, any thing to do with your affairs, other, than the disposing of collections you may send me & forwarding you the money." If it was an offence in me, vexed as I was, about not hearing of the papers, books, &c. to think & say that you could have been a little more particular in the shipment of them, I must plead guilty, & I dont know anything better, now that the delay has resulted in no great misfortune, than to "laugh," if not "be fat," over my disappointments.

In the latter paragraphs of your letter, you speak, discouragingly, of the prospect of remuneration. I had rather earn one hundred dollars in pulling up & drying shoots, than, in teaching little, two hundred, cross-grained, cramped, & sporting, ideas, how to shoot. I am not eager to be rich, or I would not be running about the wilderness to please myself & others. If twenty-five men were willing to live as cheaply as myself, and, thus, give me what they would save, two or three years, I would not need to ramble any more; and, at the end of the time, perhaps we would all be happier.

I wrote you, about six weeks ago, of my present arrangements & of the time I had lost. This loss I regret, as any reasonable man would, for it is a loss which can not be repaired.

P.S. Dec 10th I have delayed the conclusion of my letter that I might acknowledge the receipt of the draft for the money you instructed Parr Kenny to send me. I received it by the mail of to day together with one from Dr Torrey inclosing a draft of $100. from Dr Short. I dont know when I shall be able to repay Dr. Short but I mean to keep up a bold front for a trip next summer if the prospect of pay is dull.

I think Maj. Babbitt will do more for me than Mr Bartlett seems to have been willing to do. He gave me very kind offers & I feel that I may apply to him in the Spring with more confidence than I have felt at any time heretofore.

I shall be very happy to hear from you whenever your press of business will suffer you to write.

Very respectfully & truly
Your obt. Servt
Chas. Wright

I have a Hedyotis very distinct I believe from any thing described in the Flora. Stem erect branching and with the branches calyx & caps. short hirsute, nearly smooth. Leaves narrowly linear 5-6 lines long. Calyx segments acuminate half the length of the very minute purplish-white corolla and longer than the mature caps. Caps. slightly obcordate on peduncles 2 lines long bent at right angles to the stem and the caps. erect on the peduncle which is consequently bent near the capsule. Flowers solitary axillary. Stipules or axillary leaves. Limb of the corolla 4 lines in diameter-tube proportionally long and slender. Found in sandy post-oak woods between the Colorado & Guadalupe about 4 5 miles high

[illegible] stages in their growth
used in their native situation and this had ~~many~~
~~no~~ advantages of forming a correct opinion which
those who examine the dried specimens do not
enjoy. Last winter in January I think I noticed a shrub
which proves to be Chamaerops Ritchii. This with a swelling
resembling the receptacle of a fullen berry in flora (683)
and this spring this same receptacle swelled into a
berry which is now mature and the shrub is just begin
ning to bloom. The berry is nearly spherical ½ inch in diam.
deep purple & covered with a pulp similar mealy or no-
very juicy. Johannes ~~Lejeune~~ comes nearer to [illegible]
[illegible] I have saved a plenty

New Braunfels March 7th 1857

My dear Dr

Having a leisure afternoon I commence a letter though I may never the closing it to some future day. I returned yesterday from Austin where I completed all the arrangements for my journey that I can make. Major Graham has not yet arrived in our State but is daily expected. I shall I hope receive immediate notice of his arrival and his intention to depart westward when I will join him without delay.

I have been making a collection on a small scale insects reptiles and fishes for Sm. Inst. and have a very pleasing correspondence with it officers. I have done nothing during the cryst. this winter I can get hear nothing from Wilcox or Others who have received them. I formerly sent

I shall not trouble myself to make another collection, as I learn under your last note I have whether it is any use.

I shall go to Ft. Kyle tomorrow where I intend to remain myself in killing deer & turkeys for two or three weeks during which may occur some memorable for Prof. Baird. I shall keep my eyes open for that purpose.

You may remember that when you first began to distinguish species by my name I manifested a commendable modesty which you would not & some other name indicative of peculiarities. But since you take your own way you may just as well go the entire swine & give me all the credit & really deserve. I believe I first offered & endeavored to convince you of a fact which you have

admitted in Plant. Lindl. - that Cydalia does also produce it flowers in the summer & reopen the next. Those flowers the next. Again in a note to Plant. Lindl. part 1 you remark that Ulmus crassifolia was collected in Sept. in flower etc You time (I quote from memory) Now I authorize you to wipe that out & make it a part of the specific character or the distinctive character of a section of the genus that U. crassifolia uniformly flowers not in the spring but in Aug.—Sept. I have been among it now several years & have seen nothing but to confirm the opinion above expressed You may not be convinced but I venture to predict that you will be some day if you live long enough I am not quite so desirous to see my name in print as a fellow (a little lower down—you say) I once heard declare he would commit "assault & battery" for he wanted to get his name on the "criminal docket" nevertheless I suppose we are all desirous to a greater or less extent of a reputable notoriety—so give the d—l his due

March 13th One of our earliest flowering plants is a sp. of Euphorbia growing in shady bottoms (creek, river bottoms) tender (I imagine) less milky than most of the species The flowers & floral leaves are yellow or yellowish green I was not a little surprised the other day to find it literally swarming with bees in quest of the pollen? (or honey or propolis?) The large dasylirion (the staminate plant) is another plant much resorted to by them for the same purpose (i.e. collection of pollen)

March 17th Ulmus crassifolia is now nearly in full foliage without showing so far as I have been able to perceive a single flower I have been among it every day from the first swelling of the bud Our three species of Prunus are mostly out of flower Cercis occidentalis is in flower also Anemone Ranunculus Fauschia tortica Live oak is blooming as well as the other oaks also Salix and various tree

Ap 2 Our species of Erodium now displays numerous petalous flowers the later ones being apetalous The former are somewhat larger than a dime

Bees, in great numbers, collect honey now from Fedia radiata? and a deep-colour pollen from Lupinus hirsutus

Ulmus crassifolia is now in full foliage I have been among it every day since spring opened but have seen no flowers or fruit

Berberis trifoliolata manifests the same irritability at the base of the stamens as the common barberry & Dr North & Col Foyle has succeeded in transplanting numerous specimens of it this spring

Ap 11 I learn as yet nothing of Mary Graham's movements Am I doomed to throw away the coming summer like the last? if so I must quit the business

The coat of arms of the U.S. ought to be changed and a snail to be put in place of the eagle

I have spun out a yarn more than a month long and will quit

Yours Sincerely

Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray

Send. Sept. 11

Brownsville July 9th 1851

Dear Doctor

I have been thinking some time of writing to you but have put it off for a letter to Cambridge, as I anticipate your return from Europe and my forwarded might arrive there too late. The last letter you received from me was dated at Eagle Pass and since then I have not heard from you. I am very desirous of either your return or hearing of your return. I have been here now fifteen days - long enough for me to make something of a collection. I have got I suppose less than twenty species. Selection a new Dicotaceae and Dr Wislizenus et tu eni has the same. When I left my former home he told me that no plant was flowering for miles around, since the arrival of the troops. Here the plateau and valley country is dressed up in manifest signs of fertility. I made my excursion to the mountains to the west, nothing but Cactaceae. In the river bottom I found a ranunculus which I find no description of. Today I form a petition to Lt Colby U.S. Dectinatus

I have been till within a few days in a state of uncertainty whether I would be officially attached to the Boundary Commission or not. I have however I have received my appointments with a salary of $3500 per ann. & an ration. I labored hard on my way out here - and collected 350 sp. including the usual proportion of duplicates. The prairie here presented a pretty flourishing vegetation - but when we reached the Lempio which has furnished me with so great a variety of plants we found it perfectly dry, a fire had swept over the whole country to the very summit of the mountains & I found only occasionally a plant worthy of notice. The same parching drought had extended to this place. Not much to be had. I do not know in the valley of the Rio Grande I found a very scant vegetation. What I collected I have remitted to you - I collected but few seeds for the same reasons that my collection of specimens is small. The seeds I could not well send any my plants owing to a want of time and imperfect put up - yet I hope they will reach you without damage

Dr Shortt advanced me one hundred dollars. I was for some time undecided whether to return it or not owing to the uncertainty of my position with Col Graham's party. If I received no salary I would perhaps need it and now that

doubts me entirely is not easy, justly to return it If I were assured that a set of my plants would be turned over to Dr Short I would have no scruples in the subject but Col G is very sensitive lest some of his plants should fall into the hands of other botanists than yourself and be published without due credit being given to the Boundary Commission He was hardly willing to send the Cactaceae to Dr Engelmann until I assured him that you would turn them over to him He even doubts your claim to reputation as a botanist because you would not undertake the classification of all the Natural Orders Though I believe I satisfied him (at least in part) in showing him that other well-known botanists did the same If you do not know what instructions he may give you relative to the ultimate ownership of the collection — I still have a claim on them I want you to reserve a set for Dr Short at least I suppose you will turn over a set to Smith. &c. He spoke of sending a set to some scientific institution at Paris very well there will then be some left and as he knows nothing of the number of specimens it will be easy to reserve some for me His principal wish seems to be to preserve the collection in its original integrity All they are published and all due credit given to him in head of the various issues of the Boundary Commission If I can be assured that I will derive some benefit from my stay I will overtime to collect as much as before but if I can claim no credit for the collection I shall use no very strenuous exertions to glorify him (Col G) or others My salary is small and my expenses considerable Besides unlike his other assistants who furnish nothing to the expedition I find my own horse my own paper & collecting materials and have already assisted Mr Clark the zoologist What I have already collected during the space of two months are worth nearly or quite the whole year's salary It is therefore reasonable that I should reap a considerable profit from the disposal of the specimens I said in my last that I had collected two packages Since then I have made up a small package of cryptogams which I sent to your care by a gentleman from Boston who is coming I might perhaps have sent the whole by him but had not time to look them over before he left though I was able to send by Capt Brack and separate some for my sister said package to overtake him I was afraid if I sent them all to you my sister would get none of them I am gathering a few seeds of Cactaceae which are the only ones now procurable

July 12 For the last few days we have had light drizzling rains an extension — token of the commencement of the rainy season — and the showers yesterday very gentle and moderate continued far into the night The incoming dump clouds were rolling over the brow of the mountain which bounds our horizon on the east as I came by the easterly road and I thought I saw them over the valley of the rio when we are but they disappeared before effecting any considerable descent These mountains are reputed to be 30 miles distant though they often appear to be no more than 10 or 15

Considerably more than a year ago I sent a respectable collection of plants to Dr Torrey to be distributed about to Buckeman S Nuttall &c but as a catalogue of localities I sent directly to Hallowell Of the novelties contained in the package or its value I have heard not one word Now I am not going to be treated in any such way If I send packages of plants I want to receive at least a "thank you sir" When I shall hear something of a satisfactory nature from you that a Mexican will be ready to make another for the same reason I did nothing in the cryptogamic line in the winter The coming season for those plants I shall be in a new region and of any thing new or interesting should offer I will save it though I shall give myself no great trouble about it I hope you will give me some satisfaction on this subject if you can obtain any intelligence from the gentlemen who have those cryptogams I hope also you will take some pains to supply me with such lists of the plants of the region I am about to traverse as you can procure I wrote to Dr Torrey particularly about it I see in the few books which I have references to papers published in scientific journals containing descriptions of the plants of the western prairies California the Gila. New Mexico &c by Nuttall Torrey &c Such papers would be very useful to me who now have before me the prospect of a residence in the wilderness of two years or more Any thing for me should be sent "Via Independence & Santa Fé" if possible between which is now established a monthly or semi-monthly mail and from the latter place it will be easy to get communication [illegible]

Camp on the Rio Grande Nov 30th 1851

Dear [illegible]

They have transferred me from the corps of Astronomers to this of the Engineers and put me to work in surveying the Rio Grande &c for traveling by the old route from San Antonio to El Paso and collecting and preserving specimens of the various kinds of game &c &c &c in that region. I spent some time at Austin a few miles above Eagle Pass doing little something & sent my collections back to San Antonio and started on the 1st of November & Engelmann & myself. My packages were put up on short notice and in a less careful manner than my former collections & I suppose that they may not reach you in as good condition as I could wish. In fact I was to be disappointed and besides collecting on the way I secured every thing about the mission & within a moderate distance of it as many Indians came & which you will find I hope some new and interesting things. Late in Nov. we started westward and went much further than at first we were led to go and consequently found many more things than I expected. A great many new things among the Composita were met and secured and some things which I could refer to new families. Several new Cucurbitaceae Polygala &c &c numerous &c &c & in other families were met with I run my collection up to nearly a thousand before leaving the Rio Grande I have passed a [illegible]

two cedars and two or three oaks I think you will find mine a very interesting collection I hope to hear from you per mail as I am anxious to receive the seeds of my plants as fast as they are published and I would like to buy any thing and every thing relating to the flora of this country that you can buy for me or procure for me unless such things should be of more convenient size or price by Laboratory works such I could not use if I had them Can you exert any influence over Maj Emory to retain me as a collector or connector, so that I can continue to obtain more as heretofore If you have any money for me pay it over to my brother his address is John G. H. Wethersfield Conn he can call on and see you almost any day I sent him a small package of seeds to your care by a Bostonian returning from this country

Dr Torrey sent me some books last winter Please ask him pay I am summoned to Fronteras to report to Col Graham to receive some money which I entrusted to his care & I suppose to take leave of him after preparing my plants for transportation for he intends to take them with him Now I want you to give me your pledge (if you can conscientiously) to reserve a part of these plants for me and a set for Dr Short especially I have saved a great many more than the Government have any need of & I have labored hard to collect them Gentlemen in the Commission although better paid have labored like me If I can be assured of some benefit from this collection I will continue my labors as heretofore if not I shall lose as easily as I can and become supremely helpless Col G. knows nothing of the number of the sets or of the species Of some there will be many supernumeraries these might be retained for exchange Should I ever be in a condition to form an herbarium

It is now well nigh a year since I received your last kind letter from England I hope to receive at length an account of your doings since leaving the United States You can doubtless reserve for me a copy of the works published on the labors of your pen I think I deserve them for I have labors abundant and enjoyments few enough

Letters to me can now be sent via San Antonio as a mail runs between the two places

Very truly
Your obt Servt
Charles Wright

P. C. Fronteras Dec 28th 1857

Dear Sir

I have had an interview with
Gov. Pesqueira and Gen. Gandara & I am to
[illegible] the pleasure that I shall have time to call
on Gen. Gandara [illegible] before I leave
Ures & receive from me a reference to a letter
[illegible] to Gen. Gandara in my favor I hope
[illegible] to be able to [illegible] I will make my
[illegible] to the Telegraph office & will make my
[illegible] I shall be [illegible] till I have some pledge
[illegible] I have not had any in vain The Commission
[illegible] paid in specie pay from that quarter
as any [illegible] I shall do all I can to [illegible] you can
[illegible] some time to [illegible] my [illegible] I shall remain
[illegible] for the next month & expect to continue
[illegible] consequently can do little to the
[illegible] arrangements

If you would make application to the Gov
[illegible] the matter [illegible] in my behalf I
have no doubt a [illegible] portion of my claim
will be [illegible] to [illegible] You [illegible]
[illegible] I will [illegible] my [illegible]
and I venture to say that I shall be [illegible] to
[illegible] the expenses that [illegible] of my present
[illegible] I have [illegible]

I have inclosed a fragment of a letter
from a Roman Senator to his friend
with some of the Roman Customs.

Wash. to Albany
1 – June – Nov. 1851

P.S. March 15th Major talks of sending Dr P. from home – probably to assist in some way in bringing out the Botanical report in anticipation of a counterplotting by Bartlett & Hunter & Co But this I believe a kind of secret or a matter not fully decided on The Dr has just returned from a trip to the Gila in quest of the Boundaries. He picked up on the route some few pretty things though somewhat scrappy C. W.

P.S. 2. I inclose a little Graphalea the largest specimen I have found – growing in stony places Ap 15th Please give me the name No 134

C. W.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

San Pleasanton Jany 25th 1852

Dear Dr

I wrote you by Col Graham since he left I have surveyed the Rio Grande from San Ygnacio thirty miles below this place to the cañon when the San Antonio road first strikes the river When we start below to work again we take pack-mule

Maj Emory was to start yesterday on guest of Mr Bartlett It is doubtful whether much more surveying is done before he returns The commission is out of money and we must have pack-mules before we can organize another surveying party Maj Emory's orders are all given for the prosecution of the work but they will be inoperative unless the Quartermaster can furnish the means—thus throwing the responsibility of the neglect to continue operations on the Commissioner Perhaps I will be able to tell you more about it before this is despatched

I received by last mail a letter from Dr Torrey in which he announces your return—also two from Dr Engelmann who says he has some money for me which I have directed him to send to you and you can find some way of paying it over to my brother as well as any other money which you may have now or hereafter for me His address is John G. Wright Wethersfield, Conn. I received also a short letter from Mr Buckmann who seems to be in great glee over the collection of Lichens I made two years ago He speaks of them almost in raptures and modestly begs some "more of the same sort" but says not a word about money Could'nt you squeeze him a little one more Not that I need money I have so much here now that it is only a trouble to me But my brother does And further more I think he ought to pay something for the pleasure which he is evidently enjoying

I was somewhat disappointed at receiving no letter from

you But no importa I suppose you have hardly got into working trim yet since your return to Cambridge I shall be sadly disappointed if I do not hear from you by next mail

Engelmann is in a quandary under the conflicting instructions of Col Graham and myself—the former directing him to describe the Cactaceae collected by me and send them with his report on them to his address ~~to~~ Washington while I told him to reserve a portion of them for me

You may be in the same perplexity and I will say to you as I did to him that ~~xxx~~ if I were with you and had the control of the plants I would save two or three sets and turn the rest over to (not him) but to that branch of the Government to which rightly belongs the custody of such things He will be more the wiser and I believe I should have no conscientious scruples in practising a little deception on a man who has shown himself so illiberal to me in this matter as Col Graham has. Neither Maj Emory nor Mr Bartlett manifested any hesitancy in promising me that a part of my collections should be reserved for me although I presented no reasons why I wished for some but to Col G. I offered the most satisfactory reasons such as these that my paper was my own I rode my own horse while others better paid are doing absolutely nothing and I am laboring assiduously not only as a botanist but as a surveyor

During my travels through Sonora I made memoranda of some plants which I did not collect such as

Lobelia cardinalis on the San Pedro and elsewhere
Bidens connata? or chrysanthemoides floribus magnis foliis connatis on the Babocomori
Talinum sarmentosum Northern Sonora Common
Verbena bipinnatifida " "
Portulaca oleracea & lanceolata common
Vitis quinquefolia on Babocomori
Rhus toxicodendron "
Yucca baccifera Santa Cruz
Artemisia aptera? Santa Cruz Wet places
Helianthus lenticularis Copperminer and elsewhere common

Feby 2nd An express from Santa Cruz recalled Maj Emory when he had been gone but a few days, and on his return to Frontera he crossed the river below here and took this place in his way I am ordered below to the vicinity of San Ygnacio and preparations are making to push on the work with as little delay as possible I know nothing of the nature of the despatches lately sent to the Commissioner nor of their contents I only know that they have saved the Maj a trip to the Gila—perhaps The prospect for botanizing the ensuing season notwithstanding the Maj's promise appears gloomy I will do however what I can I am now shooting birds and learning something of ornithology to want something better to do I have found one plant beginning to flower already probably a Nyctaginium I did not examine it not having a book with me

Yours Truly
Chas Wright

Frontera Cp. 12th 1852

My Dear Dr

Your letter of Jany 23d found me in a woful bad humor & acted as a charm. I fancied you had thought me marvelous & had resolved to "cut my correspondence" And yet I could not persuade myself out of the conceit that I was just at this time the most important collector in our country considering the field I am in and the considerable experience I have had in the Botany of this western region. I am very sorry I lost your letter by its being "enclosed". To Lt. Graham I can hardly believe I so directed I have however asked my correspondents to send their communications to me "in" care of Lt Graham "& "Maj Emory" successively, with their consent. The other mode would be virtually asking them to pay my postage bills a thing which I hardly think it possible I could have done ——— You are laboring under a slight mistake in thinking that the collection now in your hands was made before I was in the employ of the Commission Although not officially notified of my position & salary till after my arrival at this place my certificate of membership in the Commission dates as far back as the 10th May — the time when I left San Antonio. So I consider my labor as properly belonging to the Commission only so far as it is modified by circumstances. My case differs from that of others materially thus I rode my own horse I worked with my own capital — my paper I cost the Commission nothing as others did, in transportation to Texas & I have been continually busy, while most of the others have spent months in perfect idleness On these grounds I thought I was justly entitled to a share & a liberal one of my plants

Bartlett, Webb, Thurber, &c have committed a great blunder in storing their collections here at Key West. They doubtless thought to get together in one great mass all the treasures of the country and come out in a perfect blaze of glory — I question if they do not find many of them destroyed by insects or scattered to the winds on their return.

But Dr Bigelow is of the right stamp so far as he goes. As Dr Torrey wrote me "he is not much of a botanist" but he goes at it with his whole heart & soul though he makes a scrappy specimen. I throws them all together in wondrous confusion. Nevertheless his zeal will tell on the flora of this country. I hope he will receive full credit for it — I long to hear something pleasing relative to my mosses sent to Sullivant. I have found but few in this country. One which I had often seen in Texas but never with fruit I found here this spring with fine fruit. I sent a specimen to Sullivant through Dr Torrey. I hope now that he is married he will resume his studies and give us collectors something to ruminate on in the intervals of our moss-hunting.

I find some things in Plant Wright needing correction or explanation which may be put in the form of Errata. Thus none of the plants of 1849 & summer of 1851 before I went to the Copper mines were gathered in New Mexico proper although I thought they were at the time. The southern line of that Territory strikes the Rio Grande some twenty miles above here so that the expression "between Western Texas & New Mexico" is not strictly correct. El Paso itself is in the Mexican State of Chihuahua. I suppose Limpia should be Limpio or "el arroyo limpio" or "clear creek" — "Sphaeralcea hastulata" seems to be misplaced or separated from the other species of the genus by Sida. Under Sida filipes "Hills of Turkey creek, near Austin" should be "Hills of Turkey creek: also, near Austin" for they are "a many miles apart" as Lindheimer would say — First time of Hermannia "Pabina" should be "Sabinal" meaning "Cypress" or "El arroyo Sabinal". The locality of *Oxalis Wrightii should be "at pointed Limpia, head of the Limpio" — Do you remember the discussion we had in your study relative to the biennial nature of the fructification of Condalia obovata? I observe the same here in another species or it may possibly be the same. I perceive you have acknowledged in Pl. Lind. the correctness of my views but have forgotten to give me credit for making the discovery. And I will tell you something interesting concerning Fouquiera Spinosa. Young branches show no spines. The midrib & lamina of the leaf are connate except near the apex. At maturity the lamina separates entirely and leaves the indurated midrib a rigid spine.

I hope you will also bear in mind when you come to it that "Ulmus crassifolia" does not flower in the spring but in the latter part of summer — say Aug. - Sept. At those seasons I have uniformly found it loaded with fruit but never in the spring — You will find among my last plants the other sp of Amorpha — I send you my notes containing a correct account of my collections from the time I left Fronteras in July till my return including some small plants collected this spring.

No 30 Streptanthus carinatus Stony hills near the Rio Grande March 26
" 64 Compositae Stony hills near Fronteras Ft Lincoln March 27

N.B. Speaking of Condalia obovata, relative to Condalia Ferruginea Torr. you have acknowledged the ripening of the fruit the year after flowering. You may as well do the same with regard to Condalia obovata for you will be obliged to do it or your successor for you

* Or, as in my original notes; "Valley of the Limpio, at its head: on stony ridges. June 13th" I do not remember seeing it at any other place

No 47 Stony hills near Fronteras Fl light red dust March 26
" 83 On rocky ridges opposite Fronteras " 30
" 85 Stony vallies near Fronteras " "
" 92 Hills near Fronteras April
" 56 Stony hills near Fronteras Fl light purple March 27
" 57 " " " " " " " "
" 20 " " on the Rio Grande common " 5
" 31 " " " " " " " 20
" 38 Epilobium collinum Stony hills near Fronteras " 21
" 48 " " " " small specimen 26
" 53 " " " " 27
" 54 " " " " Fl red dust white " "
" 90 " " " " Fl white April
" 42 Sandy ridges along the Rio Grande March 29
" 19 Hills along the Rio Grande very common March 5-Apr

Please send me the names or at least the generic ones of these plants — We go in a day or two on a scientific excursion to Lake Guzman said by some to be the receptacle of the waters of the Membres by others of the Santa Maria which runs in an opposite direction by others thought to receive both May be we will find out the truth — may be the Indians will catch us The distance is about sixty miles and we will be gone a week probably

Prof. Baird seems to be in raptures at the fine collection of fishes & reptiles sent home by Mr C Lamb — pleasure in which I have a share as I took part in the fishing and snake & lizard catching

I find in the neighboring hills a sp. of Adolphia, with solitary pendulous fruit & white flowers Dr A. infestus

Present to Mrs C. my regard & congratulations on her good health and my sincere desire that you both may see many years of health & happiness Sincerely Yours Chas Wright

Washington Sept 9th 1852

Dear Dr [illegible]

I reached home yesterday I have been much longer on the way than I expected to be

I received your last letter while on my way in from El Paso to San Antonio It is encouraging to me that of all the ~~papers~~ packages that at different times I have sent you as yet none have been lost But I have been particularly unlucky in my attempts to send seeds to my brother — yet you think I do love to grumble Know that Col. Graham has been distributing about to yourself & others seeds sent to my brother with Col's knowledge & consent and in his care Yet he has not received the first one Now have I not cause to grumble? But n'importe I'll be as good natured as I can

The collection of this year were sent by Adams express from New Orleans to Dr Torrey The cactaceae were taken by me to St Louis and turned over to Dr Engelmann He made out about forty species I spent two or three days very pleasantly with the Dr — Do you hear from Sullivant? I want to get from him a set of my Texan mosses & Hepaticae for reference so that I may not go on collecting duplicates Triplicates &c — also the same from Tuckerman with respect to the Lichens These will make small packages & can be easily carried & will materially assist me in studying these families

I wrote to Dr Torrey from St. Louis and expected to find here a letter from him but was disappointed I shall go to New York soon I have turned over by Maj Emory's order triplicates of my Spring's collection to Dr Torrey — as also Dr Bigelow's & Parry's Those found on my way in are not divided My reservation I will forward to you if you desire it You can take what you want & dispose of the rest as you have heretofore done I fear however they will contain few or no novelties

Please send me the sheets of such portions as you are working up for publication I saw in St Louis a full account of our Mendocino (Bolivian) Mexican Found several small & very pretty Gilias on the hills at Frontera last Spring

Dr Engelmann sent by me two books for you one on the Cactaceae the other on the Orchidaceae. Shall I send them by mail?

I have been contributing something lately to Mr Curtis' family I have just got a letter from him in form of a report on those last sent in which are some "nov. sp?" some "nihils," as he calls them but says "never mind the Nihils I collect many of them myself but they are only to be determined under the microscope" Write me soon

Yours truly

Chas. C. Wright

Wethersfield Nov 11th 1852

Dear Dr

I arrived here early this morning having left New York yesterday at 4 o'clock P.M.

When I went down I passed a letter from Washington sent to Dr Torrey & forwarded by him being from Prof. Baird I was impatient to know its contents, and made my stay somewhat shorter than I otherwise would. However I made a pretty good distribution of all the families above Endogens and should have completed the job if Mr Carey had been able to assist me as he intended but after one days work other business called him away & I had to do all the rest alone I spent a very pleasant week in the Dr's family

Prof. Baird assures me there is no chance for money until Congress meets His last two letters (of 21 & 22nd Ult) both refered to the Behring's Straits Expedition and both express anxiety for an answer The answer was promptly given and now I am equally anxious to know the result of my acceptance May failure to get any money from Washington will be a good excuse for delay to return to the Boundary and yet I dont want to be here idle however pleasant it might otherwise be to stay with my family

I found among Dr Bigelows plants some of that queer plant which I took for Actinella scaposa and he has & think three or four forms of it I did not

have time to look over the plants especially the Copper mine collection so thoroughly as I wished for such as are not among mine However we separated a few among them the little Hedyotis which (you & I) used to quarrel so much about Dr Parry's collections contain several queer things but they are almost all single and scrappy at that

When will some of the Pl. Wrightt Pt 2 be ready for distribution ——— Do you hear anything from Engelmann

The plants I brought home with me are doing pretty well and the Epiphyllum has now two beautiful blossoms

I left through forgetfulness with Dr Torrey's copy of Palm Dyck he can get it however when he visits you at Thanksgiving

I refunded the Dr his expenses on the plants from New Orleans & in doing it made a blunder for which I was "rowed up Salt river" all the time I stayed after it

Let me hear soon how you get on and oblige

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Aberquito Nov 15th/52

My Dear Dr

Last night I received a note from Prof Baird informing me that I am appointed Botanist to the Behrings Straits Expedition and that my orders will be sent on so soon as they know my address

The expedition will sail in January — so it is no matter how soon you send me what money you can without inconvenience to yourself procure for me and I shall really need more than I would have desired if I had returned to Texas It is desirable to provide many things for the whole three years such as shoes and other articles of clothing I believe I wrote you that I shall probably get

none of my pay — I may however
Can you suggest any books for
me as a supplement to De Candolle
If you could give me a check on
a New York bank perhaps I could
get gold more conveniently than
with one on Charles River bank
Would Britishers be of much use
to me?
Let me hear from you as soon
as convenient

Yours truly
Chas Wright

Watertown March 10th 1853

Dear Dr

Yours of the 7th inst was received yesterday and P. M. a day or two previously.

Not having much to do I have been looking over it for the very gratifying object of finding mistakes and

Imprimis You have put the wrong tail to my name on the title page for I never yet put quite so big a no. and thought I saw but little about it anyway some who know the truth of the matter may think I did it surreptitiously to gain scientific rank to which I am entitled

Under Stylidium ... notum the 4th line ends with mis- ... mean cristatis? and is the calyx 5-angled?

Under Linoda pentac... in the 4th & 5th lines aequantibus should be aequante

Under Phaseolus acroperus 3d line ought not ... limum to be infimorum or is it the poetic genitive?

... Asclepiosia tenella 4th line "infimis × × ×" ... bracteatis" don't read right ... I have forgot my Latin

... Indigofera Sphaerosanpa 2nd line "setiolis" ... to be "petiolo"

Under Petalostemon ... 1st line for "minum" read "minimum"

" Cassia lepto carpa 2nd " "petiolis" read "petiolo"

" Oenothera primiveris 4th " "longioribus" " longiore

" " chamaenerioides 4th & 5th lines "tubo × 4 × ... give" is ambiguous and wants be better thus "tubo calycis

infundibuliformi lobis subduplo injure ... brevissime"

Under Sicyosperma 9th line for cirrhosae read cirrhosis

" Cassia Wrightii 2nd line "nervis ultimque" ?

cant translate at all to my satisfaction though it might be very plain if I had a specimen in company with the description

73d page 1st line "in Suave" should be "involucro"

75th " 9th " "Viridi" " " "viridis"

" " 17th " "biseriali" " " "biseriatis"

Under Linum pubescens 3d line for "unisexuale" read "unisexuali"

" Hymenothrix Wrightii 1st line "corollis fl. 5" is another puzzle and two lines below breviusculum should be breviusculum.

You must have referred to the wrong list for the locality of Pegnum Mexicanum for it was collected this side of the Rio Grande on my return as is evident from the fact that I misplaced it in the distribution whereas the other collections had been arranged before I went to Cambridge

When is Mr Zuckerman? He has been owing me a letter for some weeks

I received news on Wednesday two days ago I received a letter from Bartlett requiring me "to deliver or cause to be delivered to him" all the collections, drawings &c that I made whilst on the Mexican Boundary Service

Guess he will have a tough time getting them all together

I answered him that I had only obeyed orders and could not be considered responsible for the disposal of any of those things but forgot to tell him that I am well satisfied with such disposal

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge

P.S. 5th line of Actinomeris longifolia "paleis" should be I think "paleas" but this is a great country and we have the glorious privilege of writing just such [illegible]

P.S. 2nd Don't forget to send Dr Bigelow a copy of Pl. Wr. He [illegible] if I mistake not in Lancaster Ohio

C. W.

Brooklyn April 4th 1853

My Dear Dr

Your last two letters have remained I believe till now unanswered The draft on Boston is cashed and the Article on Mycetozoa is laid away for future use I have been reading Payer on the Cryptos Time however hangs rather heavily

Can you help me by a hint about some books to fill up the gap between the end of De Candolle & the end of Endl I can get at Baillon's a little book on the Coniferae Endlicher's I think but I have nothing on the Cucurbitaceae or Capparideae nor on the Grasses or Ferns or Orchids I shall have to depend on Dr Torrey for a copy of Lindley (he borrowing Dr Parry's) till one can be imported for him

Had I better have Lyngbye's Algae I have Harvey's British marine Algae (Manual) Will it pay to purchase Lyngbye myself What few books I get now will be at my own expense

Is the Text-book nearly finished and how soon will you have any of the Expl. Exp. printed That would be of great use to me

If I had known how slow we would be in starting and how disproportionate my requisition would be to Stimpson's I would have had more books ordered from Europe but it is now too late Rumsey says we'll be off the last of the week a first of next So mote it be and the quicker the

letter I want to get into a warmer region am particularly
when there will be something to do

I will find out before we finally sail how letters
must be sent and let you know and then you can give
direction how Sillman may be sent which I will be
glad & thankful to receive We will stop awhile at Nor-
folk Va when I shall be glad to hear from you I may have
a chance to botanize a little then by way of keeping my
hand in at least I can get a few mosses & lichens if
the Phalenops have not come into flower

Dr Torrey has moved into his new house Parry is helping
him put his abundant materials in order Bigelow was
here a few days since and began a sort of good natured quarrel
with me because you did not give him credit for every
thing he and I jointly found I told him he ought to be very
thankful to you that he got any credit at all

Accept for yourself & Mrs G my kind regards

Yours very truly

Charles Wright

Gosport Navy Yard May 28th

Dear Do

Yours of the 21st (Post mark 23d) was found in the Post Office this morning Letters for me have been usually waiting me on my arrival at the Navy Yard & I am particularly anxious to get in the Box of the Yard Clerk as we are not delayed from two to four in the "Navy Line" mail. In answer to Prof. Bache's address (I might be U.S.A.) as put away in another box so that I have become very inquisitive ——

But I get nothing from home which gives me the news almost as late as I had them when I was first at your house and could [illegible] from you more immediately, or rather from the office for want of being inquisitive enough — On the 12th inst I mailed for home with several papers relating to my [illegible] a draft on A. Bank & Co for receipt of which I think my brother would have immediately acknowledged the receipt, as I am in the use of writing you would be [illegible] to know that all and I were in such a condition as to give him little or no trouble after I am gone

The non-receipt of your letters from you, personal correspondents am I can't account for their failure at this time only on the supposition that their letters are taken from the office

and destroyed and mine to them also to conceal some villainy — The Cashier of the Bank however assures me that there is no danger of my losing the money which has somewhat relieved my anxieties

The common talk among us, was Singapore will be our Post-Office for the next year or more — I have not had opportunity to enquire of any one who could speak "as settled" as he made last year — The common talk among the Ward-room Officers of our vessel and I suppose you may expect direct is that place — If I hear more definitely about it or of any better direction before we sail — will let you know or I will write from Natal or the Cape

Tell Dr Brooks I received his newspaper on Saturday last — other papers are too late as we unless he send to the Cape or Singapore

I am glad that your garden is doing well and that you are able to have the opportunity of studying some of my gatherings in a living state

I am likely to become an A.N. without much trouble — I have been an A.N. almost Master and found it a great bore

I am getting some improvements made in my room so that my collection & hope will be above high water mark — I have already taken up two nights and found the ship leaking — overhead that leak I caulked the last time in Shall see now the next rain will serve me

I see that as long ago as January you announced the publication of an essay of 20 pages of Vol. 2 No of Nature and yet Ridges favoured me with no more than 506 pages He is certainly slow in producing these works I came very near missing Nature through his carelessness

I beg pardon for telling you that you had not sent me the first part of your paper on Hydrozoa which I received through Dr Gray but had written it

I am pleased to learn that Mrs G. is improving in health

I will keep you informed of my doings and position as often as I have opportunity I shall hail with pleasure any letter from you I find no one in our ship who takes any interest in science We have no poet in our mess — but he with the rest if they have a penchant for any thing, has it for drinking whiskey only Yet they are all very quiet pleasant men in their respects a sociable fellows for long cruise particularly is a very pleasant companion — Clarke except perhaps Mr Innes Surgeon who goes in for fishes and reptiles and is a quiet pleasant messmate

Commander Pringle has all the week been threatening me with a sail today or tomorrow — whether we were ready or not Here we have been now two weeks on short rations in the steam doing little or nothing and now they are pushing everything

To get off before we are ready We ought to have a new
propeller with body as much more existing surface
and then we might set along some I have been as
anxious as any one to be off but just now I want
to stay at least long enough to hear from home once more

I have just learned that all public letters are to be
sent indiscriminately to Singapore Batavia Hong Kong
Please see the present direction will doubtless
be changed when we get up about Behring's Straits

Yours Truly
Charles Wright

Dear Sir
Sincerely Yours &c

P.S. Please bear in mind that I am attached to the Steamer
John Hancock and direct things so that they won't go to the wrong
ship

P.S 2nd I copy an order to Capt Rodgers from the Commander
in relation to the direction of letters

Sir
For the information of yourself and Officers under your
command I give you notice that I have directed all letters
of a public character to be sent to me to Singapore Batavia
Hong Kong or Macao until further advices from me Letters
may be sent by the John P. Kennedy which will sail in about
two weeks
Yr Obdt
John Rodgers

C Rodgers

Funchal July 7th 185

My Dear Dr

We came in sight of Madeira this morning early and by 12 M were near enough to have a pretty good view of its rugged cliffs

We have had a remarkably smooth and pleasant voyage without a gale or even a strong blow or a rainy day — hardly a drizzling rain has fallen on us. Not so with calms. In the Horse Latitudes we lay two or three days rolling about and a repetition of the same just south of the Azores the first days of this month. Here Com. Ringgold came I suppose to the sage conclusion that our delay would not be his haste and sent us on ahead purposing to follow when wind would permit. We shall make a very short stay here and proceed on to Simons Bay near Capetown perhaps before the arrival of the remainder of the squadron.

I can't say much of the sailing qualities of our ship not having tried them. We have made as high as ten knots but our average now with light wind and it not very fine is five or six. Her movements however are quite easy and pleasant. Safe as this term can be applied to the motions of a ship

Old Neptune got hold of me and squeezed me "awful" — but it was like squeezing an empty bottle — he got very little tribute 'cause why — there was next to nothing in me I had tricked the old fellow in which I was materially aided by a lack of appetite — probably one of his tricks — so it was tit for tat — I am pretty well again but do not feel so energetic as when on land and find it good to be quite abstemious in eating — glad that I do not have that ravenous appetite to contend with commonly spoken of as consequent upon seasickness

I don't suppose I shall have an opportunity to botanize here which is of but little consequence and I hope we will hurry off to the cape so as to give me a good chance to run before the arrival of the remainder of the squadron

I can see from the ship any patches of land covered with weeds and bushes or hardly enough to entice me to shore even if I could get at them Every accessible piece of ground appears to be cultivated The whole Island is a mass of terraces and if there is a spot not in cultivation I dont believe I can get at it unless I could climb like a monkey or a goat I thought I could see a few patches of vegetation on the face of apparently perpendicular rocks unmarred by the hoe for the plough could not get there — if it did would it stay

8th. We are coaling this morning by sunrise which seems to promise a speedy departure It seems we are just too late for the mail the steamer having left yesterday I have not learned when another opportunity will occur for sending letters We shall trust them to the next mail

I see I have made a awkward work above in beginning my lines but I sat in my own sunshine and wrote in my shadow and couldn't see well How my room is not well glazed for light so you must excuse omission and mistakes

Yours sincerely

Chas. Wright

P.S. I have not written to Dr Torrey not having anything of importance to communicate

C. W.

U. S. Steamer John Hancock
Simons Bay Oct^r 14th 1853

Dear Doctor

I commenced a letter to you some three weeks ago soon after our arrival here but I soon became busily engaged collecting and examining plants and thinking you would rather know results than anticipations. I threw it aside and postponed writing till the present time when a vessel is about sailing direct for the States.

You doubtless learn our movements through the journal We were seventy three days on our way here had aside from its tediousness quite a pleasant passage We came once in sight of the African coast not far from Liberia with southerly winds — then tacked and stood away towards the coast of S. America — had some calms which we did not improve to the best advantage with steam especially just before doubling the Cape when we had head winds and had to beat round it with wind & steam

You may imagine I found almost every thing new and I have had but little time for studying but I am getting into the mysteries of the Diatomaceæ, Protead Selagineæ Scrophularineæ Drosmeæ and all sorts of Compositæ By the bye, does you publish

an article on some Cape Cruciferae so did you only speak of doing so? Don't forget to send me every thing of the kind

I have been very successful in drying my plants thus far although we have had some squally weather & I have been out almost every day thus losing often the opportunity of drying in the middle of the day when the deck is hot Captain Rodgers gives me full liberty to scatter my papers all over the deck and the atmosphere must be very dry or my plants I think would have given me more trouble than they have done I have been once into the country or town as far as Capetown as far as Constantia some twelve miles or more I cant expect to find here many novelties after Harvey, and several botanists besides have visited the Cape yet I may perhaps reasonably expect to find something The Orchideae or such like plants (Diadrogens) are very numerous various & beautiful but difficult to study & I have not attempted it to any considerable extent I think I shall go to Capetown again I have perhaps in the stage and walk back which will give me a good chance to pick up some things not found about here The steamer has taken in her coal and is preparing to put to sea which she is expected to do in a few days She goes up the Mozambique channel and thence to Batavia I am to be sent home to the Bucaneer which will be

australia direct I am afraid I shall not have the same facilities for laboring on board the flag ship which I have enjoyed here when I have had a very pleasant time and have enjoyed every reasonable privilege We have too a very pleasant, mess and not very expensive So my privileges I fear will be abridged and my expenses bill increased on the flag ship — but I will do the best I can I have not been very desirous of going where the trees don't make any shade and when we will arrive in midsummer when if any thing new or undiscovered remains to be found it will be impossible to detect it When we arrive however among the smaller Asiatic islands where some of our labors in surveying are to commence I will be on the lookout for novelties I have secured a few things for Buckerman & Sullivant & only wait a rainy day to make a more thorough search

I dont yet know whether any of my collections are to be sent home from here nor what disposition will be made of them if they are Mr Simpson is putting up some of his collections in Zoology to be sent home

We dont know exactly when the flag ship will sail probably in ten days hardly sooner though I was told yesterday that a week more was allowed her to prepare for sea

I am in excellent health only exceedingly tired although I have not been on shore nor out of the ship

today — not for want of will. but the wind was blowing strongly and the sea was rough and there was a prospect of getting wet if I started so I stood and studied land all day — and now at night (perhaps too late for our ship, mail has been made up & sent on board the Vincennes) I am bringing up my lagging correspondence

Yours very truly

Charles Wright

St Louis

U.S.Ship Vincennes
Simon's Bay 23d Oct 1853

Dear Doctor

I write by Mr Ames one of my old messmates of the ~~Vincennes~~ John Hancock who if he should call on you as he partly promises to do please entertain in your best manner for my sake

I am transferred to the Vincennes and in no good humor about it and shall not trouble you with a tedious epistle I have been hard at work nearly every day rambling over the hills and valleys – studying by night sometimes till ~~late~~ the beginning of the new day puzzling over queer things till I was tired and going to bed no wiser than before Some common things and with very distinct characteristics I have been obliged to throw aside undetermined even generically while I make few and feeble efforts for specific names

I told you I was in ill humor I was satisfied with my old mess and with the great liberty I enjoyed on board the Steamer Here I was put into a dirty room (it has not been cleaned yet) and ship with the rucked y Batell in front of it – no coat curtains or writing desk and no boy yet to wait on me and my duds haven't been blacked for a week If things dont mend soon I'll make a fuss about it

The Hancock & H Cooper went to sea day before yester

day — we follow in a week more or less - next Friday
[28th] says rumor - The next p[ort] we bring up at will
be Australia - may-be-so - as we say down South - then on
to China - and when we will commence work - quien sabe
If we stop at Australia it will be midsummer and every
thing will be dried up — some say however we will go
on direct to China without stopping — why we go
that roundabout way to China if so we go I know not
perhaps to have [illegible] winds. The Nanework I am told
goes direct to Batavia.

I found a very small Cotticulaia with purple flow-
is growing as usual in wet soil I send you some spec-
imens but you must say nothing about it but let
me know if it is described as far as you know

Yours truly
Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass

P. Mrs Ames

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Simon's Bay Nov 4th 1853

My Dear Dr

I was aroused this morning by the uproar of heaving in the anchor—but from that time till now (about midday) it has been dead calm or if now and then a cats paw appears it has been from the east dead ahead Besides when the orders were signaled to the other ships behold one of them had not her water on board

This has been the best day [illegible] in some time for drying and I improved it early Yesterday the wind blew from the southward & eastward almost a gale and I stayed on board all day

I have made what I consider a fine collection of plants For a seaboard this place excels any I was ever in for the variety of species on a limited space & no place I ever visited can compare at all with it except Northern Sonora where I was two years ago The longest excursion I have made was but about fifteen miles and most of my rambles have not extended more than from one to four & back

Plants dry off very quickly even some of the smaller Helianthemums sooner than our Zaluzianias and pusleys at home The Orchids too give me less trouble than I expected they would Like many of ours they make by change of color unsightly specimens though I have not met with any very pretty

We leave here in utter uncertainty so far as I am concerned where we will ~~land~~ land next The Commodore some time ago or when I was ordered on board this ship told me we were going to Australia but now there is a common report that we will not go there at all or if we do it will be a mere touch and go I dont know that I shall regret it much for it will be in midsummer when vegetation will be very much parched up

I have had but little conversation with the Commodore since he ordered me on board for I have not been very amiably minded and I have learned that he has not displayed the most mild temper at times So I was not sorry that he had no occasion to send for me I have wished to make out a requisition for some more books but I would go without them till doomsday rather than ask him and be treated as he treats Stimpson refusing to refund expenses necessarily incurred in the service — though Stimpson has certainly been more liberal in his outlays than he ought to have been

I must have Walpers and I would like the General Filicum of Hooker and Lindleys Orchids* & I see no way to get them but to ask you to send them to me & I will try to have the expenses covered by a requisition hereafter I sent home by Mr Ames to be given in charge to Prof. Baird some eighty-five dollars to be subject to your order You can take that which will cover a part of the cost & before

* Also some general works in the Museum

payment day comes I will arrange to have the rest forthcoming If you think of any other books which will be particularly useful to me during my long passages from one port to another you can add them to the list so that they do not cost too much remembering that in my situation I must look out for the "multum in parvo"

Between this and the next port I shall try to and arrange and study as far as possible what I have already accumulated which will probably then be sent back to Washington What will be done with them then I dont know I suppose if I wish it they will be kept for my study when we return I hardly know whether I will then be content to bestow myself up in a city for two or three years poring & puzzling over dried specimens or whether the locomotive propensity may not overcome me as to set me again roving

I suppose if you so desire you can have a hand in bringing out the Botanical Report though it may be rather premature to be studying over this matter at present

I have enjoyed excellent health since I have been here and I do not anticipate much danger even in the sickly climate to which we are soon going Strict temperance & regular habits I have faith will carry me safely through

I dont feel quite at home here as I did on board

the Steamer Some of my mess then I believe sympathized with me or at least showed a disposition to favor me and as I think esteemed me Here the majority of the mess have a most sovereign contempt for science and no esteem for its devotees They shall however respect me I have never yet failed in the various situations and companies into which I have been thrown to secure that respect which a consistent course of conduct & industry are apt to inspire in others Nor do I doubt that a similar conduct will produce similar effects here

They are about to close the letter bag & I must also close my letter

As ever
Yours Truly

Charles Wright

At sea December 18th 1853

My Dear Doctor

We hope to be at Sidney or off it day after tomorrow wind and weather favoring- but we will only leave our letters and pass on- it would not do I suppose to stop less our men shoud prefer gold-digging to navigation We have had a prosperous voyage from the Cape the winds except the first three or four days being remarkably favorable constantly aft or more or less on the quarter, a clean run not a moment ahead Just they have been strong making a rough sea and cold — sometimes accompanied with rain-squalls and thick rain About midway on our course we had a succession of gales on pretty severe obliging us to scud under very little sail (close-reefed mainsail & close reefed foretopsail) These lasted a number of days - yet we made good speed two hundred miles per diem more or less We left the Cape on the 9th inst.

I collected at that place about eight hundred species of plants among which the Compositae are pretty numerous (121) the Leguminosae (37) Liliaceae (26) also numerous Scrophulariaceae (66) Ericaceae (33) Diosmeae (25) Cyperaceae (47) I have been the last few days studying the Leguminosae few of which I can determine specifically to my satisfaction- the descriptions of De Candolle being so miserably vague Almost every thing which has flowers and fruit I have been able to refer pretty plainly to its place in the system except one genus of which I

have three species and through the characters of both flower and fruit in perfectly clear and I spent much time with the recent flowers hunting through Endlicher for a corresponding description I could as I be gun completely in the dark— It is not very probable that I have any novelties though they would be more likely to be procurable at Simons Town than at Cape Town notwithstanding they are only twenty-four miles apart— the extremity of the Cape having doubtless been less examined The Proteaceae judging from the few species (24) I have seen well deserve the name if it comes from that [redacted] many-shaped old gentleman versed in ancient mythology I was a little surprised to find so few Euphorbias only seven having been collected I suppose they must grow further up the country— the aloes likewise only two or three of these being met with I found ten Mesembryanthemums besides a few which were too sappy for me to attempt to dry us on ship board with the labor of months and after all make such specimens as would disgust a goat or a jackass I can say much of the few which I have succeeded in depriving of their native juices as far as the beauty of them goes

I wrote to you about some books— I must have Walpers and I ought to have any and all books which in a moderate compass embrace the whole family of which they treat Such an one on the mosses can be procured and you doubtless know of others. I will have a good deal of time for study When a great distance at sea which I would be glad to improve The commander says he will approve a requisition for such books as I may order and if you can get them for me you will make me much your obliged humble Servant & I will send you the money with as little delay as possible How is Lindley progressing with the Orchids & Hooker with the Ferns and how much longer are they going to "drag their slow length along" I should think it impossible to make any thing of many orchids without colour drawings of the recent plant— some most beautiful ones making very ugly specimens— commonly a winter (I dont mean a snowy) time Dear me! I can hardly sit still enough to make a legible scrawl but you generally pay me in kind

25th Instead of getting into port or off it "day after tomorrow" as above-written we are at the end of a week off the harbor (10-15 miles distant) just at night and in a dead calm We will be anchored in all probability before tomorrow at this time if we have no better speed than we have had the last week which has been one of head winds light & baffling ones or calms

I do not learn how long we will stay It is supposed that we will not go up to Sidney only send up— the naturalists however now to be allowed to take a run on land or wherever the interests of our calling respectively lead us The last week I have studied out most of the Compositae but some of the largest— the Helichrysean— or those with large solitary capitula puzzle me amazingly

27th We anchored in Port Jackson yesterday morning but I have had only one run of a few minutes

on shore just before night Today I think of going to an exhibition at the Botanical Garden & ship sails tomorrow for California and I close to be ready for that opportunity

Excuse,

Charles Wright

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

U. S. Sloop Vincennes
Sidney Dec^r 30th 1853

Dear Dr

I wrote to you a few days ago enclosed to my brother announcing my arrival here I have since met Mr Mackay who is an old acquaintance of yours. Dr Torrey Pickering and others your collaborateurs whom he met some years ago during his travels through the United States He took me around his premises showing me his method of cultivating the native trees and shrubs herbs and parasites He has comparatively few plants in flower as it is now late in the season for most of the flowering plants His place is on a small bay of Port Jackson and very tastefully laid out His trees are all overgrown with Epidendrums and other parasites most of them having been tied on and at length rooted in the bark or wood Then he has most of the Araucarias & Dammaras as well as the other rare and interesting trees from the South Pacific islands He describes his collection of Liliaceae and other bulbous plants as quite extensive including our Lapagerias &

Habrantham &c.

He tells me he is desirous by exchanging plants and seeds of trees and shrubs and I told him I would write to you on the subject He says he has never succeeded in growing our Kalmias but is unwilling to give up the attempt Rhododendron & the gums also yuccas the Texan persimmon and indeed any and all interesting trees and shrubs are desired by him described to him Leucophyllum Texanum as one which I was sure would please him & I think it might very easily be raised here

He wants also to procure American insects either by exchange or purchase and I dare say Lindheimer might make him a collection which would benefit the collector and gratify the purchaser Will you if possible give a few moments of your precious time to these matters

We are all in confusion just now six of the men having stolen the boat belonging to the Capt of the "Pride of the Sea" who was a visitor on board and run for the shore and for the diggings if they can get them It was too dark to see them but for a few moments and the boat in pursuit returned without any discovery of the fugitives One of them is my assistant

Jany 1st 1854 A happy new year to you and

P.S. We may sail day after to-morrow for New Caledonia — or Kanaka-land
Therefore we are going post haste as we are going uncertainly This few hints that we are going
To-day or they envelope is a device for

yours and may you have many returns of the same

I have spent two days on the north side of the Port botanising making pretty large collections containing however nothing new Mr Moore the Curator of the Botanical garden tells me that Mr Cunningham found every thing in this part of the colony having been a most indefatigable collector and that to procure novelties one must go to the interior or to some unfrequented part of the coast

I have tried to make some arrangement to prepay the postage on my letters but can not do more than pay the Colonial postage which however is a small portion of the whole amount and so I shall put my letter into the general mail when I can not send by some American vessel and you can do the same

We have no intelligence yet of our deserters though it is highly probable they will be taken and delivered up unless we are in too great a hurry to sail

I write this in prospect of the departure for California of an American Bark and you will probably receive it by way of the Isthmus & most likely sooner than if sent by the English mail Write as often as you can I believe me

Yours truly

Charles Wright

U.S. Ship Vincennes
Hong Kong April 9th/54

My Dear Dr.

I am afraid you would accuse me of neglect or I believe I would even now keep silence if failing to write may be so considered I have but little of interest to communicate and if I were once under way at growling to which we are all much addicted just now I fear I should give you an overdose So I shall endeavor to give you as meager account as possible of the disagreables which we experience Mr Stone has promised to see you and give you at length a version of the incidents of the voyage up to the present time

I will & must confess that thus far I am disappointed but not discouraged & hope for better times in future I have before written I think that not one of the regular officers take the least interest in any branch of Nat. Hist and Mr Stimpson at the start rode his hobby too hard Hence all our messmates delight in picking at him He appears to think (and appears amazed that others do not see through his specs) that no branch of Nat. Hist is so worthy of study as marine worms and almost goes into ecstasies at times over an ~~almost~~ nearly shapeless mass of jelly or some ugly worm that any one else would shudder to touch

But to return to my subject When I left the Cape I was in good spirits and hardly dreamed of going to China without collecting anything for what I picked up about Sydney I count next to nothing) It was very vexatious in passing across the whole breadth of the torrid zone to be in sight of land every few days yet never set foot on it Had our ship started with the pre determination to tantalize us as much

as possible he could not have accomplished his end more perfectly Now than once when close to land orders were given & cheerfully obeyed to rouse up the cable and get ready to anchor Soon however I began to put no trust in appearances In fact we long since have given up any calculation about the future When we are going where we are going came to be matters of as little calculation or consideration as if one were a hundred years distant and the other the circumference of the globe We have no more idea what part of the earth or ocean we are next to visit than if we were brutes This may all be well enough but I cant see the wisdom of being so everlasting close

However we are anchored in the harbor of Hong Kong and I enjoy some opportunities of botanising on a little island the flora of which has been known for many years It has for a most villainous climate For the first few days it was tolerable and we had more or less sunshine but now the rainy season has set in but as yet it is more fog and clouds than rain Day after day the cloud hang heavily over the mountains descending at times nearly to the sea level making every thing damp and giving to the whole face of nature a most gloomy appearance I have made two or three ascents to the mountain tops and it is no easy task to accomplish for they are the steepest that I ever had the pleasure and the toil of climbing The prevalent vegetation is ferns I have found some old familiar faces besides or at least the near kindred of those so well known in our own country One violet, one drosera two or three Orchideæ Lycopodium Davallia Polypodium Xanthoxylum Hypoxis Euphorbias a few Orchids a Lysimachia &c recall the vegetation of our own country while the Zingiberaceæ Figs & others show the subtropical character of the flora

Very few facilities are offered us naturalists Since we left the Cape of Good Hope we have had no advantage of ship's boats to go on shore At Sydney we went ashore (when we had a chance) in a hired boat and this went at certain set times most inconvenient ones for me either too late or too early It is much the same here I can leave the ship at any time of the day by paying my own expenses which however here are not heavy though none the more just to fall upon one who wants to be doing his duty The ward room mess has a boat of their own (that is a hired one) which passes between the ship and shore at certain fixed hours Yesterday it was sent on ships duty when we stood upon our privilege and refused this service to him who has control of six ships boats It would be useless for me to attempt a description of the state of feeling existing between the Head and his subordinates and what is more extraordinary extending to the Porpoise where it is much more bitter than with us Pity that a man who can be so much a gentleman has not the will or ability to continue so I often fear I do him injustice for personally I have been treated much better than most of the officers I have but little to complain of but my removal to this ship which he had a perfect right to order But it has certainly crippled my operations while it increases my expenses and diminishes my freedom Mr Stowe will be able to tell you in a very short time what it would be any thing but pleasant for me to write and what it would require some space and time to make clear

My collections will be stored here when we leave how long I know not & when they will reach the Lost I know not Simpson was anxious to send home descriptions of new species but the Commander refused Poor fellow he had written out a dozen or more pages (perhaps sheets) of manuscript and was ordered to rewrite the whole of it because — It was not on paper of the

exact size, a quality to please him That is a specimen of Cadwalader Ringgold One thing I have observed that according to the old saying. "give an inch take an ell" or "the more you do the more you may do" those who have been most obsequious have smarted for it Those who have acted most independently — have not bootlicked — have suffered least I have kept aloof from him I never go near him except when I am sent for which does not often happen I will relate one little occurrence We spoke the Flying Fish from California — an officer was sent on board for papers and a few vegetables — The Capt gave this officer a paper to put in his pocket while he sent a large bundle to the Com. The officer learning something of importance to communicate to the Com. & not wishing to trust to his memory made a minute of it on said paper and when he returned on board pulled the paper from his pocket to read the memorandum when the paper was taken from him and never returned — and this on the quarterdeck in the presence of several officers That one act taken in connection with his other conduct on the occasion damned him in my estimation

No more of that subject I received today the Sept No of Silliman's Journal I hope to get the others as well as letters from you in a day or two when the mail arrives from Singapore where some of my letters were directed

Please write as often as you have anything of interest to communicate Your letters are always acceptable Continue to direct to Hong Kong for nine months or a year from the present time

My best regards to Mrs G. Remember me to Dr Gorey & family also any other friends of mine with whom you have correspondence

I am very truly

Yours Charles Wright

H.B.M. Ship Encounter
Hong Kong Aug. 12th 1854

My Dear Dr

Mr. Dent found me last night absorbed in a portfolio of plans which I had just visited the mountains to collect & stole time however to read it at the risk of being obliged to let a portion of them lie over till today — I had become a little snubbish at not hearing from you for so long a time and it is now well nigh four months since the date of my last to you and yet I gave you more credit than it seems you deserve I did believe you had written and that your letters had miscarried as I know some that I should have received from home have not made their appearance I have the most implicit confidence in the frequency and regularity with which letters are sent by my brother and yet I have received but two since leaving the Vol. I have guessed at every probable and improbable reason why two of the first written should have reached the place of their destination and all subsequent ones for the last four or five months should have failed or been delayed But even so it is whatever may be the cause — I am glad the money matters turn out so well — I had begun to feel a slight uneasiness (quite groundless however I could not but admit) about the money sent to Mr. Lowe I had my brothers letters seen & he would not be likely to know any thing about it and not by Him any letter from you or Brand & Mr Lowe alone would be likely to know of the circumstances I perhaps naturally felt a little uneasy about a sum of money entrusted without security to a man with whom I had been

but a short time acquainted

Before this reaches you the rumor of our late Commander's derangement will have been spread through the country by the numerous papers. The first indubitable evidence of the true state of his mind was presented on his recovery from a somewhat severe attack of sickness at Canton. It was perhaps reasonably expected that with the recovery of bodily health and strength mental soundness also would ensue. And this result may eventually take place but all hope that he would be again fit to take charge of the expedition is extinct. I write this with reference to himself alone on the same principle that we say "de mortuis nil" &c — while I think the change of Commanders which has taken place will result in good to the expedition. It may justly be suspected that the disease which has now so distinctly manifested itself has been all along acting latently, and that his propensity now so strong of buying everything which strikes his fancy whether necessary or useful curious or valuable — or the reverse has been all along working in making changes (mostly with reference to ornament and beauty or what he thought so) improvements additions and subtractions (not mathematical) as numerous as useless — This may need a little explanation — Ever since leaving Norfolk (perhaps long before) all the mechanics on the ship (and when in port many from the shore) have been almost incessantly at work on doors, windows, ports, skylights, binnacles, gangways, grating, davits, stanchions &c, and all with reference apparently to making each thing pretty or if already pretty, prettier. Now that Capt Rodgers takes the management of the squadron we may reasonably hope that the business of the Expedition will be energetically pushed forward. Who could have dreamed that we would lie three months at the Cape of Good Hope that we (this ship) would be five months thence to China that we would remain at Hong Kong or thereabouts five months more. He was offered a better ship than the Porpoise yet see what a loss of time spent in repurposing her a whim of his entailed on us. I dont know whether he chose the John P. Kennedy (steamship) but after great delay and expense in almost re-creating her she was to be abandoned and is to be sent to Canton to continue to the defense of the few pure-blood effeminate denationalized dime-grasping Anglo-Saxons who are too abominably lazy to shoulder a musket in their own defence. A small fraction of the above so generally denounced have acted very gentlemanly and honorably. The ice have condescended to form a vertebrae in the tail of the Commander but many below him they dont stoop to notice. Dont think this sentiment results from any neglect of your humble servant — he asked no favors expected more received none and was not disappointed. It is the general feeling entertained by all the junior officers of the squadron. Our countrymen at this place are very gentlemanly men — the Messrs Desilver & co.

Now for Siam. I have enjoyed tolerable facilities for working while here — that is I could go ashore any day but not always at any time of the day and for the most part I have paid my own boat-hire which does amount to much. But the Com. promised to approve my account for such necessary expenses — but it was rather too small a business and I let it pass. I often hire a cooley to carry my portfolio and sticks which is only a shilling a day and

at that rate Mr Desilver says I overpay them and spoil them for others who may want their services Then another shilling for boat hire which I dont always have to pay often finding the ship's boat at the landing) completes my daily expenses Often I dont get a cooley but carry my portfolio myself especially if I intend to take only a short ramble Neither do I by any means go out every day — twice a week would be probably near the truth Occasionally I send my assistant when I generally give him a little money to buy his dinner or to pay his boat hire — but this is not quite so profitably spent as when I do it myself When my liquors dont cost me much — I find them of the best quality on shore and in the greatest abundance What I save from buying I dont consider misspent if given to science My business and the manner in which I conduct it agree admirably with my health With the exception of a slight intermittent fever of four or five days continuance when we lay at Whampoa recently I have been perfectly well since I left our own island I have been frequently warned by our countrymen in not to go out in the sun I answer that I trust to Providence temperance exercise and a good constitution and if with these to back me I take sick I throw the responsibility on the Doctor whom I will help all I can in effecting a cure Hong Kong has a bad reputation for its effect on health changable as well as on the climate But I dont wonder that folks die who gluttonize and guzzle liquors and take exercise in a sedan Such people consider it a great misfortune to lose a dinner yet I am of a different opinion considering it as the man did a worthless dog — a go at loss — occasionally

The Commodore for some time back seems to have had his whole attention directed to the protection of American interests at Canton and to his multifarious improvements on board the ship. With these in mind he had but little thought to devote to Nat. Hist. Stimpson for a while hired a boat for dredging but soon the expense became a serious matter as it produced no present ornament and the result was a good deal of slink!! (pardon the word) — so he was no longer allowed to hire a boat but at his own expense and for many weeks he has done little or nothing in this line. I have not done much among the Algae and a while back Stimpson & myself made an exchange — he took the seaweeds and I the insects which we are respectively better able to attend to than if the Zoology were strictly assigned to him and the botany to me. So there is a possibility that I may branch off to entomology when I return to the U.S.

I have become acquainted with one gentleman a citizen of the island who has paid considerable attention to its flora — a Mr Haance (a sort of German name?) though he is English by birth. He has named for me a number of plants and yet a considerable proportion he was unable to identify from the dried specimens. I went out with him one day and I was brought to think from the little experience that day afforded me that he would not make a very energetic mountaineer. I am inclined to think that among the many specimens collected on the island a very small part of which only I have had means to work out especially as I have a strong proclivity for getting up hill and for snaking it about in ravines and thickets a few novelties at least may turn up* Hereafter I hope I may have opportunities of visiting shores and

*I have found one Rotifer among Stimpson's waters a curiosity for the Northern Pacific

islands most likely to afford a greater proportion of new and interesting things I am often asked what particular families I collect which I commonly answer by "everything" So Mr Curtis Mr Fickermann and Mr Sullivant may feel an interest in my labors Mr Hanks has a kind of taste the antipodes of yours—a Compositae-phobia—and asked me to determine for him the most common—almost cosmopolitan sp. of Ageratum——The package of books came last night also—the Journal also visits me regularly

For these and all other favors—many thanks I shall be obliged to ask you to look out for me generally in such matters—for I put little confidence in the size of the cavity I fill in the storehouse of the memory of our good friend Dr Torrey if it is not crowded by other and more important matters to a size less than any assignable quantity as say the algebraists I must confess however that he did send me from New York to Norfolk the last vol. of Kunth which I supposed I had already bought of Bridges He seems to have been as parsimonious of his epistolary favors to me as you have—more so indeed as I have not heard from him except through you and Dr Parry who sent me a short letter some time ago written as he says at your suggestion He tells me too that Dr Bigelow has not quit grumbling because I did not glorify him enough and that he has enlisted Mr Emory in his cause I sent him a real blizzard of a letter—if it does not cure him & part him in a good humor I must give him up as incorrigible and let him take it out in growling

You may be interested to know in brief what I have been doing and how I have been able to improve my time since our arrival here We arrived about the 20th of March From that time up to the 11th June I continued busily employed in making excursions on shore to various parts of the north side of the island reaching the top of the mountains & extending my rambles in a few instances a short distance down the other side During this time I made an excursion of several days to some islands away to the eastward No day passed that I did not find something unseen before On the day above mentioned we got under way for Whampoa Canton R. We lay at the former place till the 16th In this time I collected what few plants the the constant occupation or cultivation of the land for a thousand years had suffered to retain their natural form—besides making a flying "visit" to Canton We reached Hong Kong again the 18th On the 22nd a sudden call of the citizens (foreign) of Canton started the ship away again up the river leaving me behind It would have been a happy thing for me had I been prepared to remain A message however was left me to come in the Steamer which was detained by divers causes We did not get off till about thirty hours after the other ships of the squadron We started just at night and early the next morning came up with the Vincennes at anchor at Whampoa The Commander soon repaired to the Steamer and she continued on to Canton Here we vegetated till the 26th July & then got under way for Macao where we lay till the 2nd inst I made but one botanical excursion here landing on Typa island near Macao From this place we went to Cum-sing-moon—a safe harbor where we could ride out in safety a typhoon which now threatened Here I collected a few things mostly grasses & cyperaceae We left Cum-sing-moon on the 8th and anchored again here the next day I have taken one ramble as I wrote above since my return and find the vegetation changed

Meanwhile Capt Rolando in the Porpoise sent out to rescue some shipwrecked Chinamen on the Pratas shoals accomplished his purpose returning crowded with the miserable starving wretches and was refused assistance in landing them by the authorities of Hong Kong They could bonise the officer however for that did not cost them any bodily exertion but the expenditure of a little breath He was next sent out on an anti-piratical expedition in company with a Portuguese lorcha and some boats with their crews furnished by one of Her Majesty's vessels of war They came upon the pirates but from mismanagement or unavoidable circumstances they fell too far to leeward to reach them with their guns or to prevent them from escaping which they did in fine style During the hunt the previous night Capt R. went reconnoitering in an open boat with one officer some men and two or more bottles of brandy which it seems he fought more perseveringly than he did the pirates In the obscurity of the night he came very nigh being the catchee and the fight was kept up till he was "hors du combat" and retreated to the bottom of the boat while the other officer succeeded in conducting the party back to the brig His subordinates preferred charges against him offering to withdraw them however if he would go home A court-martial is about being organised for the trial of some deserters and I believe his case is to come before it also He was unpopular as first Lieut. of this ship and is well calculated to be so anywhere — We have a very pleasant mess since the recent changes my interests have advanced at least 100 p.c. But I did not dream of spinning so long again My best wishes to all

Yours sincerely Chas Wright

P.S. I observe that the Am. numbers of Alligator has not yet come to hand though I have shipped Wilcox — Ryder the middle in. lieut of November destined to San Mateo under

U.S. Ship Lancaster at Sea
Lat. 27°30' N. Long 140 E. Oct 19th 1854

Dear Dr.

We expect to reach the Bonin Islands some time or another when we get a little more wind or one more favorable if no fresher—that by which we are now propelled being as directly ahead as if it was sent on purpose to retard our progress.—Anticipating the possibility of finding there a whaler or other vessel going to China and thinking you might be gratified by knowing where I am and what I am doing—though this occupation be much like that of the boy who was helped by his brother—to do nothing I devote a small portion of my valuable time to enlighten you respecting the above matters— We left Hong Kong on the 12th Sept. and started right in the teeth of the N.E. Monsoon—and these it soon showed much to our delay and discomfort producing no small discouragement and vexation. Hardly out in the China Sea no matter which way we attempted an egress into the Pacific we were headed off and if at any time an adverse current combined with the head wind the little old ship was unequal to the contest and we had to try another course Thus we aimed first to get out by the Bashees and could make no better course for it than that which would have taken us to Manilla. Next we ran to the Northward and attempted to go round the north end of Formosa but with no better success for here again we were headed off

Meantime we had most uncomfortable squally weather the ship wet—clothes and every thing else damp and musty and we could see the opportunity to breath a little fresh

air only in the intervals between the squalls. At night for the most part we lay to and the rolling of the ship was any thing but agreable — occassionally bringing down on the head of the would-be sleeper books clothing or other articles that were not securely lashed. Thus we beat about till the 29th when by a kind of slant we slipped out into the Pacific and congratulated ourselves that we should now enjoy some of the benefits of its reputed character.

This distance from Hong Kong to Formosa under favorable circumstances could be run in three days. Since clearing the Formosa Passage we have had mostly clear pleasant weather — but the other extreme and we are now in the horse-latitudes frequently calm all day and sometimes at night — but generally a light breze during the latter

We beat up for the island of Bonin two entire days with the confident expectation of landing while the ship was making a running survey of the island. Just at night of the second day however when we were within a very few miles of it the weather assumed a rather threatening appearance — but very slightly — and taking this into consideration and the little knowledge we possessed of the shoals and rocks round the island as well as the uncertainty of effecting a landing in safety — the Capt concluded to proceed on our voyage promising indeed to visit it on our return — which he will never do. It would have been interesting to land on an island which so far as is now known was never trod by human foot. If we ever reach the Bonins I hope to have two or three days botanizing. It was at first the Captains design to put up the observatory and leave the Astronomer to make observations while he surveys the islands in the ship. I would have been left also

This plan I am told is now abandoned and we will be in port only two or three days then make a running survey of the group and stand away for some other land. We have one hundred and fifty (150) miles yet to make and the wind now dead ahead. From the best information I can gain of our future operations I lose by my transfer to this ship the only really good opportunity to make a valuable collection that will be presented during the whole cruise. This privilege I would have had on board the Hancock in Gaspar Straits when a Trigonometrical survey was made and time and ample facilities afforded for landing. Henceforth only running surveys will be made during which the few chances of landing will be improved.

I collected about 800 species of plants at Hong Kong and vicinity but our long delay there for the protection of the pusillanimous puppies at Canton has now thrown us into the adverse monsoon and this with my transfer to this ship and subsequent loss of time has blasted my prospects for the whole voyage. If we follow out the plan which has been indistinctly and indefinitely laid for our future operations I see only one oasis before me and that not very verdant or blooming. It is intended to establish an astronomical station next summer in the vicinity of Behring's Straits while the squadron is employed in the arctic seas and I suppose I will be left there if I desire it. I presume too I can be transferred to the Steamer if I will and should the prospect of the next summer's cruise in her be more inviting I shall apply to go in her. I regret exceedingly that I did not request a transfer just before leaving Hong Kong but I was then sick and although I really thought I should do better in her I so much dreaded the trouble of a

removal that rather than pack it I even headed the order for it. I am inclined to think the Capt. would have sent me to the Steamer if I had been well.

I regret that you designed sending my books to the Sandwich Islands. If I had known before leaving N.Y. to whom they would be consigned I would have written for them to be forwarded to that place. As it is I shall come into possession of them only just before the end of the cruise. Next summer's operations will be up the eastern coast of Asia in different seas, for different vessels, to Behring's Straits.—thence to California—then via Sandwich Islands to Hong Kong and home by way of the Cape of Good Hope. Of course these plans are liable to all sorts of changes by instructions from the Navy Dept. I have determined the families, most of the genera and some of the species of Hong Kong plants but am still entirely unknown to me. I have been studying for the last few days with but indifferent success.

To relieve the tedium of the voyage and in rough weather when these manipulations can not be carried on besides ordinary reading, I have taken up the systematic study of German—with the assistance of the Capt's clerk and if we have as much salt-water work proportionally as we have already had and as little opportunity for botanizing. I expect to be a pretty good Dutchman by the time I return.

16th This morning early we were in sight of Rosario Island a small volcanic production. As it was nearly calm two boats were lowered and manned and we pulled away about four miles to take a closer view of it. It appears to be about half a mile in length and less than a quarter

in breadth. A heavy surf broke all around it which prevented us from landing and taking possession in the name of "His Majesty Uncle Sam" Two small patches of green vegetation were observed one looking like grass and the other apparently some prostrate spreading plant. One or two birds were seen and a plenty of sharks and other fish of which a few were taken The island has a thin upper stratum of scoria and the laminated substrata are variously bent by the upheaving force

19th. A little after midday came to an anchor in Port Lloyd. Peel Island one of the Bonin group

28th. We are in the midst of a furious storm in a well protected harbor with three anchors down — It is a dark day all the hatches covered and nothing to do but read or write by candle light. I have given the northern end of the island a partly thorough examination and shall bring away a better list of plants than Beechey did. I recognize a considerable proportion of his as Corydalis racemosa. Pavonium tiliaceum Xanthoxylon piperitum. Euonymus Japonicus. Raphiolepis. Hydrocotyle Asiatica. Sideroxylon ferrugineum. Lunaria maritima Terminalia a Morinda another sp. of Rubiaceae that I can't determine. a fruticose plant, near Pimanthera. Scaevola, two sp. of Apocynaceae, a Physalis, ~~two or three~~ three or four sp. of Solanum one or two Cuscutas. one Euphorbia. one Fig. one Conifer. Alpinia. several Cyperaceae (at least three sp.) Canes & Grasses. divers ferns one fresh-water Alga (Bibbochaete) one or two mosses only. a fair proportion of lichens and a very large number of Fungi to which I have directed my attention. particularly finding it the most abundant family in season at present. The island furnishes one tree fern but I have not yet succeeded in find-

ing a fertile frond - for which I intend to make a more thorough search the first fair day There are also some tall palms now in flower which I must cut at the same time and from which I must obtain specimens. One sp. of Pandanus? is quite abundant. On the North side of the island I found a large widely spreading tree with panicles of greenish yellow flowers and very brittle wood It is closely allied to Daphne but I could not dovetail it in to any genus ~~two~~ described in Endlicher. The fruit was young and an insect had already taken possession of every individual specimen and wholly or partly eaten out the ovules. I see at least three Orchids - none in flower. Beechey mentions but one

I find but few insects - no large Coleoptera - but one or two large ~~Dept~~ Lepidoptera. A few spiders Grasshoppers Crickets and minute beetles from Fungi constitute the small number I have thus far procured One Cicada as noisy as its American kindred is abundant but so shy that I have not succeeded in taking a specimen No quadruped is indigenous unless you call a small lizard such - and this is the only reptile belonging here Two sp. of birds numerous in individuals form the greater proportion of the fauna so far as my observation has extended though there are several other species Fish are plentiful both in species and individuals as well as varied and beautiful in color and form Turtle are numerous in their season and we have procured as many as we needed from those preserved in pens —— There are about thirty inhabitants mostly Sandwich Islanders - more or less however under the control of two or three Americans They cultivate a few sweet potatoes (which alone are now procurable) and other ~~and other~~ vegetables on which and on fish they principally subsist They appear to be a miserable drunken set when they can get any thing to get drunk on and are ready to furnish it to others for tobacco &c as we have had abundance experience in the men who have come off from shore drunk

Dec 9th We left the Bonin Islands on the 6th ult and after a tedious hunt for certain doubtful islands represented as scattered along on the parallel of 30° N. discovering only Lot's Wife (Low Choo) we arrived here on the 16th inst and anchored off Napa an open roadstead when the ship rolls considerably under the influence of wind and tide and where we commonly get a sprinkling of salt water when we go ashore But thus far I have done very well armed in India-rubber I have made a respectable collection of plants for though it is the winter season in which nevertheless they never have any frost The contrast between this and the Bonin group when all is in a state of nature and this is very striking Here every spot of soil as big as a blanket is in the most perfect state of cultivation so much so that a weed is hardly to be found There are however ravines and cliffs and rocky patches which are in a state of nature and no goats to eat up the scanty vegetation which man has no motive for destroying Close by the Palace at Shoo-ry (Ang.) or Chow-i (Gallic) there is a space enclosed and apparently in a state of nature If a park there are no deer or other quadruped in it so far as I could perceive and it is probably tabooed, for when I rashly jumped over the wall no one of the crowds of inquisitive men and boys who had been following me not even the official spy ventured to follow Here I had a good quiet time and found an orange, a cherry, an orange and divers ferns

and other interesting things. Perhaps a collector procures here one fifty. I presume I should not exaggerate if I guessed my collection would number fifty and Mr. Simpson has procured some that I have overlooked. The necessity of returning on shipboard at night has prevented me making a long excursion. The restraint under which the people live in consequence of the unsocial disposition of the government towards foreigners prevents any thing like traffic with the people except through a licensed comprador—so much so that you can't reward any one for little services which they are willing to render as they invariably refuse money even to the children and you must leave it on the ground or pay them in some other way. We talked of making up a party for an excursion of two or three days towards the other end of the island but a circumstance occurred to prevent it. A ship W. P. Seward Capt. Hodges from California for Shanghai sprung a leak and came to anchor near the South end of the island and under the lee of the land where she filled and heeled over on her beam ends. We went over and endeavored to right her and get her ashore but were unable to get at her cable to cut or unshackle it. Her masts were cut away—yet she righted but little. Some spare sails and flour were taken from her and she was abandoned. Her officers and men are with us and we will probably start in a few days for Shanghai or some other port where we can leave these men. While occupied with the wreck I went ashore twice and picked up some nice things not seen on this side. I say among other things I found Woodward in profusion. One would suppose from Hooker's account of it that it was the normal condition of the plant to be profuse, whereas few of the

ferns exhibit poles I procured a plenty of fine fruiting specimens Few or none of the polypodiaceous ferns have perfect fronds I found with it in Bermuda with only two or three of the lower pinnae fertile and pinnate all the rest merely serrate I have several figs and I see two sp. of Mosses without fruit Mosses are scarce— Lichens, pretty numerous Compositae are somewhat rare. ~~Lichens~~ Fungi very rare at least at this season

Dec 17th We are approaching the coast of China having left Loo Choo on the 13th Our Capt would be very glad to have an opportunity of transferring our passengers to some ship bound to Hong Kong or Shanghai not wishing to go just now into port. But whether we do or not this event of the shipwreck gives us an opportunity of sending letters some weeks earlier than we otherwise would have done I have no idea when we are going between now and Feb when we are to be at Hong Kong My Botanic plants amount to about three hundred including one hundred and twenty Fungi the number of sp. pretty much guess work) I have not been over my Loo-Choo collection except some of the lower families Upon telling me to look out for Algae I have from this island 88 and Stimpson some more I believe I wrote you that I had given up the Algae to him & had taken the insects. At last I suspected he did not pay so much attention to this branch as it deserves and I concluded to have a finger in the pie myself and the above is the result a great one compared with Beechey's single Dictyota. Hereafter I shall improve every opportunity that presents to save these plants I found twenty ferns also at Loo Choo, more or less lichens. but four!! Fungi (very dry compared with Bonin) two Hepaticae one Marsilea two or three Lemnas one Chara one Potamogeton one Dostera? one Pistia several Compositae & Leguminosae &c. &c. I recognize but few of Beechey plants— but many perhaps most of his were procured from other parts of the island I presume I shall retain more than two

hundred — so that counting from the proper beginning of my work about a year ago at the Cape of Good Hope up to the present time I have collected at my different stopping places ~~about~~ two thousand species± which is pretty well considering that so much time has been spent in two long passages by sea — viz from the Cape to China & thence to the Bonin islands

I sincerely hope the book you sent me may not stop at the Sandwich Is or rather may not go there but may track me up and overtake me in time to be of some service

Very truly
Yours

Charles Wright

U.S. Ship Vincennes
Hong Kong Feby ~~April~~ 1st 1853

My Dear Dr

We returned to this place day before yesterday when I found your welcome though "shabby note" of July 4th which I very well made out notwithstanding your doubts about my ability which has very much increased by practice of late years more so than you might imagine unless you could see a genuine specimen of my brothers pot-hooks when you would cease to wonder at my skill That one however which you intended to write "positively without delay" has not arrived But I am so glad to get even one that I will not complain — and I know you are no idler

I sent you a long letter by some shipwrecked mariners whom we conveyed from Formosa to Loo Choo & thence to Shanghae and then transferred to the Nightingale from your metropolis and by this ship they landed at the city whence they found their way to Macao Long ere you have had the pleasure of meeting them After giving up our passengers we stood away Northward towards the Japanese islands making a running survey of several small ones and of some dangerous rocks which lie in the way of ships bound to Nangasaki This done as well as our time and circumstances permitted we entered Nagasima Bay at the Southern end of Kiusiu and anchored Here we remained more than a week making a tolerably good survey of the harbor, taking observations on shore for time and rating the chronometers during which I collected a few plants though I was at no time a quarter of a mile from the shore The people came on board in considerable numbers as curious and inquisitive as any Yankees but the officials

kept a vigilant watch ever beckoning us back when we ventured even to a very small distance from our boats or place of landing or observation. The final day I slipped into a patch of thick woods on a very steep hillside when I had a couple or hours or more uninterrupted time for obtaining I suppose I procured ten sixty or seventy species. One other day when I landed with the Capt at another spot I procured a few more. I must do the people justice to say that they were very civil offering no resistance but beckoning us away and crowding around and before us & thus obstructing our progress but ever respectful & polite. They furnished us with wood water and fresh provisions for which they would recieve no payment and certain gentlemen came on board with whom we held intercourse by means of a Chinese Dictionary and Phrase-book. A letter was despatched to Nangasaki asking permission to land and make astronomical observations at other points which was refused. Every morning the first question was "When are you going away"

After leaving this place we proceeded southerly and anchored again in the lee of Tanega an open roadstead. Here an astronomical party was landed on a detached mass of rocks which had however considerable thickets upon them. Here I found an oak and a low feeble trailing or prostrate cedar or juniper at any rate some conifer and a small number of other plants among which was a Balanophora which I then saw for the first time. The frost had been severe here (we had quite a fall of snow while in Nagasima Bay) and much of the vegitation had been bitten.

After leaving the above island we encountered an ~~westerly~~ easterly gale or a portion of the circumference of a cyclone blowing westerly during which we had a lee under Tikiay (N. from) but our Capt did not think it prudent to remain there as there nothing was known of the hidden dangers or of the holding ground and stood out to sea. The nights following during the progress of the storm the wind either changes or we had run into another part of the circle of the Typhoon — so that now we had fallen to the eastward of the island by beating against the easterly wind and during the first part of its westerly duration when we were probably materially forwarded by a current setting the same way as the wind. Several days of continued gale now tossed and tumbled us about while we vainly endeavored to make progress towards the land which was most of the time plainly in sight. We at last anchored in an open roadstead to leeward of Tikiay and I had the chance of spending part of a day searching for plants. The grass was browned by the winter frosts and even the majority of the annuals had not yet begun to show themselves — nevertheless I made a respectable collection among the ferns in a circumscribed thicket on a hillside too steep to be of any value to the farmer. I found here a fig an Arum a Gentian a Campanula &c &c which I collected before leaving this place the next morning. It took us two days beating to reach Oosima which was plainly in sight from the former. Here we anchored as before in an open roadstead at night and the next morning I went ashore with the Astronomical party and slipped directly into a thicket of bushes on a steep hillside where I continued unobserved and unmolested to botanize as late as it was prudent to stay. Here I procured new forms an oak a Rhododendron some mosses a huckleberry a Campanula &c. As at other places so here I found and saved a variety of Algae not great however as at Doo-chow but respectable considering our short stay. From Oosima we had on the whole a pleasant and rapid run to this place. I have not yet learned that the books sent me have arrived and I fear sometimes that I may leave here without them in which case the will

ve.; no benefit to me till I return a stranger still. I find not a single number of Silliman's Journal, whereas there should be three or at least two from Dr Torrey. I have not received the slightest intimation that he is acquainted with me since leaving the waters of the Miss. Indeed most of my correspondents seem to be unconscious of a particular favor towards me since I found but four letters waiting me after four and a half months absence — two of these being from my brother

I would be very glad to learn directly what is going on in the scientific world — but for this I have to wait to hear Stimpson — Here I have renewed my botanical researches — but it is stiff winter or the dry season and few annuals are yet making their appearance. Among the perennials however I have met with Eupatorium, Liatris, Rhexia and Rhododendron? but the stamens are not recurved. Euphorbias, Cistus, &c appear to be two-celled, a composite (not) I cant refer to any thing but Vernonia, with very large capitula (for the genus) and two corollas rather slightly lobed or cleft &c.

Mr Stimpson tells me that a number of books have been sent to mine by Baird probably in the same way as mine which he has not received and I fear mine may meet the same fate. Some that fell into Ringgold's hands while in power were not turned over to him — on the contrary — but he accidentally found them upon taking an inventory of the Capt's effects after his removal from command

Feby 5th Today came a large mail containing two letters from you Sept 20th & Oct 6th for which many thanks also one from my sister enclosed and four numbers of Silliman — not the latter but large I have no intelligence I shall take pleasure in calling on Mr Williams if I should go to Canton

You will now soon get my letter written in the China Sea at the Bonin Islands Lon. Envt which contains somewhat better news

Feby 6th I came across a copy of Don's Gardners Dictionary today in town and purchased it for $ 800 I suppose it is not a very valuable scientific book of reference but considering its cheapness and my necessities it may perhaps be no unprofitable bargain I was not aware till I came to examine it that it ended with the Labiates and omitted the Compositæ In the Preface which is strangely inconsistent with the body of the work he promises to give the history of the whole vegetable kingdom the fourth Vol. to contain the Monocotyledons and the Ferns I suppose that contrary to the common practice now-a-days the Index must have been written first and the work afterwards so far as it goes

Feby 13th I have spent the last few days in duplicating all my collections which are not already sent home- that is all of the Algæ since my first arrival at this place It is a good precaution against risk by shipwreck. I have had one day's dredging here in which I found Rhodolea Endymion and various other things many of which I found last year in Jamaica To-morrow I hope to finish my duplicating & then I shall be again free to ramble I mean to improve the short time we remain here to the best advantage

The Hancock and Cowper arrived today- all on board in good health We are very busy refitting and it is the intention (expressed) of our Capt to sail by the first boat. That first may not arrive till the middle of the month unless business is much more expeditiously driven than it has been heretofore However Ringgold Scott rule us now

Letters from him written at the Sandwich Is and we are awaiting some of us here and they prove pretty plainly that he is not yet perfectly sane except so far as a knowledge of his own private affairs is concerned Some books of his were overlooked in the inventory He wrote about them & pointed out the precise place in the Cabin where they were or might be

He is down on the Medical board which condemned him calls them "Perpetrators" & he had the pleasure of giving one of them Dr Green the cold shoulder at Honolulu He still believes he will return to take command of the expedition after leaving this port. I dont expect to hear again from you till next winter or late in autumn at San Francisco — a tedious time to be without intelligence from one's friends But I hope to have plenty of occupation to stave off ennui The mail closes tomorrow One of our Lieutenants has been discharged at his own request and goes home in the steamer by the overland route One Lieut died on the Hancock during the last cruise A surgeon sailed in one of Perry's squadron and died when a few days out Capt Davis who brought the Porpoise to this place was sent home & died a few days after his arrival We have lost besides four seamen and marines all from the ship So death has been somewhat busy among us I continue well. I will probably write again before I sail.

Very truly Yours

Charles Wright

P.S. Present my best wishes to Mrs G— also to Mr Inskerman & other friends

Virgin Bay Nicaragua
Feby 28th 1855

My Dear Dr

I wrote by the last Steamer asking your advice about collecting seeds I guessed you would recommend me to gather all I could find – so I went at it immediately and have done already a pretty extensive business among the Legumes and the morning-glories and others Compositæ are not very abundant Some of them attain the size of good stout bushes The forms many of them are entirely new to me and I miss my books particularly Endlicher – but I could not bring it I think from present prospects I shall make a very creditable autumnal collection I went across from this place to San Juan del Sur day before yesterday, on foot and gathered my portfolio full intending to return with another which I had sent over but I stuck a thorn in my foot while bathing and thought it prudent to ride back so that I did not collect much on my return I think of spending a week or more at the "half-way house" near the highest land between this place and the Pacific so that I can examine the country each way I have fallen in with a man from your state – a dentist by profession named Cleaveland with whom I design to ascend the mountain Omotepec in the lake the next time the Steamer goes over for wood He is a thorough go-ahead sort

of a fellow and I flatter myself that I am some at climbing hills & between us I think we will accomplish what no European has ever done in this case I think of going to Rivas and perhaps to Granada but I shall ramble about sight-seeing but little till I shall have pretty much used up the flora which will be pretty well finished by the last of next month and then I am going to take up ornithology if the requisite materials can reach me from the states I am making a pretty good collection of insects and some lizards and snakes have been preserved - also land & water shells I started with a can of alcohol and a syringe bottle but they all disappeared at San Juan I hope they will return by the next steamer if they were carried on to San Juan del Norte by mistake as is possible Meanwhile I use gin and a little alcohol which I was fortunate enough to be able to buy I can preserve only small specimens

Will my seeds sell in England or France I think I shall procure a sufficient quantity to make it worth while in a pecuniary point of view to attempt the sale of a portion and I think it no more than reasonable that I should have the privilege of remunerating myself in that way for the heavy expenses I incur in laboring for the Government instead of lounging away month after month on shipboard Besides I doubt if one fourth of them will ever be planted if they remain in our country Will you be kind enough to suggest the matter to some of your European correspondents, keeping the subject however as secret as possible - though I shall ask Com. Rodgers' acquiescence the first time I have opportunity

I found a basin along the margin of the lake & one or two Lemnas grow in the rivulets emptying into it I have found three or four Orchids a Hydrocotyle a Polygonum some Euphorbias & others which reminded me of our own flora Pistia looks exactly as it did in the San Marcos and in Lou-Choo I have found however very young flowering specimens whose smooth (not ribbed) leaves lie flat on the water It can hardly be a different species I met with two species of a little moss-like plant growing on rocks in the margin of the lake with linear serrulate leaves, tripartite minute flowers but with only one stamen and a petal (I think)

Many of the plants-trees especially-afford very imperfect specimens - flowers & fruit without leaves - flowers without leaves or fruit - fruit without flowers or leaves - flowers and leaves without fruit - however I hope something can be made of them

Remember me to Mrs Gray and believe me

as ever

Yours

Charles Wright

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

U.S. Ship Vincennes
Hakodadi June 8th 1855

Dear Do

I have done so much since leaving Hong Kong that I can not particularize and I hope you will be pleased with a mere summary of my researches. I trust too you will not look upon it as any mark of disrespect when I say that I am employing a rainy day for the purpose

We reached this place yesterday which proved rainy a pretty fair specimen of a spring Northeaster in New England and today is worse — I have not been ashore We had a rather slow passage out of the China sea & through Formosa channel but the sea was smooth & the weather duly tryed. Before reaching Do-ho-ho I spent a few hours in Leyu-kiu while the Capt & the astronomer were taking observations At Do-ho-ho I made considerable additions to my former collections Meanwhile my assistant who had been transferred to the Steamer at my request was collecting in the Linakirima group S.W. of the main island We spent less than a week here and stood away, northward surveying all the small islands stretching onward to Japan At Cosmah we entered a spacious bay and anchored spending several days (You may take it for granted that I lost no time that could be profitably employed when I say this was at the southern end of the island The bay is only one of the expansions of a strait between the principal and a smaller island Inkunosima At the northern end of the island we found another spacious bay with arms perfectly landlocked & standing in round from it

at this harbor again I made good collections during our short stay of three or four days Leaving Cosimah we made a running survey of the other islands of the chain stopping one more till we reached Simodah Here the hills and inculturable vallies are almost in a state of nature — no goats to eat the bushes nor cattle the grass nor hogs to root up the ground Many things occur here to remind me of home The vegetation was so luxuriant and the variety so great that I was never able to penetrate inland more than a mile or two I had when the very best facilities Capt R. ~~has~~ hoisted the broad [illegible] — then Asst Surg Roe became (nominally) Capt. — hence there were two privileged boats and one of ours had previously been given to the Steamer So I often had to wait for a chance to go ashore & to accept any even such as were not the most desirable & convenient Some of the officers are accommodating others dont care a fig whether I ever go ashore — I try to give as little trouble as possible but I shall have to complain if gentlemen who do nothing can at any time get a boat to go on a visit or a pic-nic & I cant get one to go ashore on duty We lost two excellent officers one transferred to the Steamer one sent home sick and received two indifferent ones = a couple of school-girls We spent more than a week at Simodah It is a miserable apology for a harbor with a long unpleasant swell which keeps the ship constantly rolling with two few cables from a southerly wind which blows directly into the harbor We found here some Yankee adventurers come to seek their fortune accompanied by their wives & children Boats were even [illegible] to afford facilities for [illegible] visits between the ship & these people on shore Stimpson was deprived of the use of the boat which had been given him to dredge in and of the services of his assistant who was set to watch the tide-gauge and in supreme disgust our Zoologist hitherto indefatigable lounged about most of the time and did little but go to the bazaar & purchase Japanese curiosities I collected a considerable number of eggs but the ~~[illegible]~~ larger kinds were not well preserved Hereafter I mean to neglect ~~the larger kinds~~ such till just as we are going to sail & then buy a good stock to work at sea I can pay particular attention by changing them often In this way I have saved some nicely which were taken between Simodah & this place We are now coming into the region of the Laminariae Tail of the Strait of Sangar are Agarum 11ft long and a foot broad which I have saved sections and long slender [illegible] Sangarsa I am going to have a net made to drag for such things along side the ship in all moderate winds at sea We had a tedious time getting through the Strait of Sangar meeting a strong tide which with a light wind we were unable to stem This tide meeting the swell caused a rip or short chopping sea so great & remarkable as to surprise all the officers who had never seen the like It was nearly calm yet the waves broke with a noise almost like the breakers on a beach

June 19th Another rainy day On the north side of the harbor is a marsh which I have found rich in carices, some Ranunculi and other kindred plants a few mosses violets a utricularia Nasturtium &c On the other side of the harbor the town and on hills immediately a Paris three Polygonatum a Trillium Smilacina a broad leaved onion three species of Astilbe Staphylea Thuya Euonymus Viburnum Rhododendron &c

The authorities will not consent to allow Mr Read to remain here to engage in mercantile business and he has about come to the conclusion to return to California. The Caroline & Ernestine in which they came will depart in a few days. So far as any commercial benefits to our country are secured by Com. Perry's treaty it is all moonshine. The authorities will sell at enormous prices but buy nothing and the people are not allowed to sell or buy — even to receive as a gift the most trifling article. Democratic principles will doubtless be instilled among the people by slow degrees — but until this is the case we may not expect to hold much regular commercial intercourse with Japan. We are now approaching midsummer yet raw chilly winds prevail and though the middle of the day is merely comfortable the mornings & evenings are unpleasantly cool. On the outside of the marsh mentioned above is a large extent of land gently ascending to the hills much like our western prairies & in exactly the same state of nature. composed of as rich soil as ever "crow flew over" and covered with a most luxuriant vegetation of grass ferns Polygonata and a few scattering bushes of Baccharis Consersa &c. The sight of such large tracts of rich soil entirely unoccupied by man or beast has much lowered in my estimation the character of Japan for great prosperity and civilization. In truth the people are more abject slaves than any negroes in our country.

Can you give introduction letters to any scientific gentlemen in San Francisco — Pray tell me too the distinction (if any) between "alaris" & "axillaris" as used by Endlicher & others.

Very truly Yours Charles Wright

P.S. I send the only capsicum grown by the Japanese (grass flowering) I will get seeds like Lima next season.

June 24th Just at night we were thrown into a very pretty state of excitement by the sudden appearance on board of the master of the Hancock with the intelligence that she was aground in the straits of Sangar A lookout sent aloft soon reported her afloat & in pretty rapid motion in the direction of the harbor The messenger had been landed and came across the isthmus a distance of a few miles only The bottom is so sand & the sea smooth & it is hoped that she sustained no material injury

Four days ago I undertook a trip to the mountains N.E. of our anchorage distant about ten miles & had nearly reached the top when I was driven back by rain I found a Magnolia & a Horse-chestnut besides mosses & many other plants Day before yesterday I succeeded better & reached the summit and was well repaid by finding Cornus Canadensis? an Aralia several Ericaceæ Mosses Lichens &c.&c. Moreover I killed a cub-bear which I brought in as a trophy of my skill (no great feat however) in pistol shooting and a hawk also whose wing I broke

11 P.M. The Hancock is in and reported as having sustained no injury Yesterday I made a pretty good collection of the larger Algae to work upon when we go to sea which may be tomorrow though probably not till the day following The C.E. Foote sails day after tomorrow taking away all the Yankee adventurers and our letters The former will not soon attempt another commercial speculation in Japan ne judici

C.W.

The steamship did not bring my books

San Francisco
Oct 15th 1853

My Dear Dr

I write at a venture hoping you may be safely returned by the time this note reaches you—I wrote to you from Hakodadi or from Petropaulski or both—I made but a small collection at the latter place We had a slow passage Toward the Straits A land party was left there under the command of Lieut Bent the Astronomer consisting of Mr Heer, Artist, Mr Stimpson and myself a small marine guard & seamen—in all about a dozen us Here we spent a month and I made I hope a pretty thorough but very local collection of about 350 sp (the lower orders calculated by the rule of guesswork) We had a rather long passage hither When I found your hurried letter on the eve of your departure for Europe

P.S. Oct 16th Mail in. Received your two papers on Bavaria &c & Plant Thurb. also Article on Cruciferæ. Thanks for Shark accept Thanks Please look out for Torrey papers and save them for me—else I fear I will not get them. He has not written me a line since I left the U.S. nor sent me a paper of any description

Would it be of use for you or me to write to Ringgold about those books or try to get a copy of the Bill of Lading of the N B Palmer to aid in tracing it to its present retreat I have to all intents lost the use of the books for the voyage but if they can be recovered it will not be a total loss

Yr

Oct 18th I botanized today on the little island Alcatraz Every thing dry I got a Lupinus. Nasturtium. oak. Berberis. Asplopappus. Baccharis. Mimulus two ferns. Some lichens a roses and a Fragaria or two or Alga. &c. &c. A Phytonia and some others that I cant now recall to mind.

And now about that vexatious package of books. The N. B. Palmer was in Hong Kong on our arrival & during our stay and I made all inquiries for my property that the extreme indefiniteness of my information allowed. If you had given me one external mark by which it might be recognized and claimed I could have gone forward confidently in my search. As it was I could only say "it has had time enough to reach here" and "it has probably been shipped" and "it was probably directed to me though possibly for securing better attention to the commander" or "it may have been consigned to a Mercantile house here" but I did not know to which if any Messrs. Thus you can but see that it may have been near by and I unable to recognize it. I have prepared a letter which I shall send by first ship to R. P. Desilver Naval Storekeeper Hong Kong giving him the little information I possess — the name of the ship which carried it and the contents of the package — and have asked him to look out for it and take care of it for me if found. Allow me to suggest that if you will communicate to him any other information as the direction dimensions or any external mark it may facilitate the recovery of the package. I hope if not found I shan't have to pay all the freights!! Rather poor comfort for the loss of a couple hundred.

P.S. (it went yesterday Oct 17)

Kind regards to Mrs G. & other friends.

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Steamer Cortes at Sea
Feby 13th 1856

Dear Dr

I dont remember that I mentioned to you my wishes or intention to return home via Nicaragua Several reasons induced me to take this step. Not the least was the extreme unpleasantness of my position in the mess since we Rome left it noise dissipation & vulgarity have run riot The prospect of a long tedious voyage was before me in which a novelty in Botany was hardly to be expected I would have a few days at the Sandwich Islands a mere possibility of landing at Tahiti and at some South American port Valparaiso Monte Video or Rio The appropriation for the Expedition is long since squandered — so the Commodore could not order me home Notwithstanding I applied for permission to return at my own expense and after a good deal of hesitation on his part I obtained it My intention is to stop some time in Nicaragua greater or less according to the prospect of spending the time profitably We are now on the north coast and will probably arrive in port on the 17th inst I can now give you no idea of my future movements until I arrive and make some inquiries

of the residents and look about me a little

I met at last my old friend Dr Veatch in San Francisco and we spent some time very pleasantly together talking of past times and future operations When I parted with him some years ago in Texas I left my copy of the Flora (a gift from you) with him He took it to California and it was consumed in one of the great fires at Stockton The loss of this, an expensive family, losses in business, and rather hard times generally have prevented him from doing any thing in botany I considered I could do no better than to give him the copy I had which I did and he promises to set his boys at work and assists himself in doing something for science and for your benefit At the same time He is about to send for his family when he will be domesticated at Red Bluff, Shasta County I gave him hints about collecting Fungi & such as had never particularly attracted his attention and obtained his promise to send you roots as well as dried specimens He seems to have cut himself loose from his last marriage and all its relations — says all the habits feelings & association of himself & wife were incompatible and that they had better be apart — has no pleasant recollection of Texas (I dont know why) except a strong personal attachment for a few friends He has discovered an inexhaustible deposit of borate of soda on his land which bids fair to meet with a good market as a flux and may yet make him very comfortable in a pecuniary point of view He very much regretted that I did not visit him — says he received my letter and answered it but chose a mode of conveyance which he thought safer than the mail and sure enough it never came to hand I have strong hopes that he will be able & willing to do something for the botany of his state He says he has mistaken his profession — that he ought to have engaged entirely in Natural Science instead of speculation in lands I did what I could to strengthen this sentiment and particularly by turned his attention to the lower orders and to roots &c &c which I told him confidently would now be shipped to you or to Smithsonian Inst with considerable certainty that they would stand the journey which is now so short in point of time

If you are not too busy and can give me any hints to direct me or help me along write to me at Virgin Bay.

Give my best regards to Mrs. G. & excuse the crabbedness of my chirography It is due to the tremulousness of the Steamer

Very truly
Your friend & humble Servt
Charles Wright

P.S. Direct to me at Virgin Bay Nicaragua.
"Care of Cortland Cushing Esq.

Brig. G. W. Russell
May 17th 1856

Dear Dr.

I forget whether I have written to you since I reached Central America. At all events I am not much your debtor for your last to me was that which you wrote on the eve of your departure for Paris written on your sick relative. You doubtless know of my unconcerted plan which however I was not able fully to follow. I managed to keep myself busily employed for about six weeks though the vegetation was quite autumnal in character. I took an hunt & I made a reputable collection of specimens & I certainly have a large number of seeds and this recalls to mind what I have mentioned above as doubtful. I remember I did write particularly respecting the seeds which I was collecting but you may not have received any thing I sent for a strict espionage was kept over the mails and no letters were allowed to be sent through that channel which contained anything disparaging to the powers then existent in Nicaragua though I can not remember that I alluded in the most distant manner to political affairs in any of my letters. Whether letters sent to me were seized or delayed none came. The failure to receive intelligence from my correspondents the loss of part of my material and the breaking up of the line hastened my departure from the country and I got at the end of a six weeks' stay

I visited the island of Ometepec in the lake and ascended to the summit of the mountain, making quite an interesting collection having found the vegetation of the island much fresher than that of the main On returning to Virgin Bay I found every thing in confusion- a part of my Kaper was gone- taken away by mistake for government stores afterward returned to me but too late for any good/ the town full of Walker men and little to eat- while fears of an attack by the Costaricans filled all minds- at the same time a rumor was afloat that the lake and river steamers were just starting on their last trip and if I stayed any longer it was very uncertain when another opportunity for leaving the country would be presented in view of all these rumors & contingencies and the prospect of doing but little more if I remained the resolution was taken to leave for home and this has proved a tedious and unpleasant business I was several days on the lake & river boats when a part of the time I actually had to beg for something to eat- a little hard-tack at that although I had plenty of money I had very inconsiderately bought a through ticket- yet when I reached Greytown it availed me nothing as the line was broken up- still I had money to get home by almost any conveyance which might be presented But besides myself there were upwards of thirty others most of them worse off than I A brig & a schooner were lying in port both going to New York if they could get a cargo We united our purses and endeavored to charter the schooner when that scoundrel Parker H. French stepped in & wanted to be "big man" The attempt failed and one or two successive ones in like manner Meanwhile the English mail Steamer came in but positively refused to call for Aspinwall in time to connect with the next New York Steamer Rather than go there and lie over two weeks I spoke my passage on the brig Gen W. Russell and then helped all I could to charter the schooner which was effected and we sailed the same day 16th Apl. In the transit and about Greytown I picked up a few small specimens such as I could save in books and continued my collections of seeds We stopped one day at the little Corn Island and more than a week at San Andres taking in cocoa-nuts Here two I added to my previous ones a few packages of seeds but was unable to preserve any specimens Before leaving Virgin Bay I entrusted my collection to the Express agent of Winn & Co rather than be troubled with it myself and it was sent on to San Juan del Norte at the same time that I came on myself I would like to have you look it over & I should find it in New York on my arrival could you not spare a few days to run over & see me at Mottensfield. I dare say you could spend them quite pleasantly if your College & other duties should not be pressing We could then overhaul the collection and you might find something among them which would repay you for the time & trouble

Have you published a new edition of the Manual or any more of the Flora? Are you doing any thing with the Pacific work on the Forest Trees? Have you worked up any more of the

Gen. Ill.? Has Engelmann published my Cactaceae or Euphorbiaceae? I have not had a line from him since I left on this Expedition Is Mr Tuckerman doing any thing with the Lichenes or Sullivant with the mosses?

We are approaching New York and hope to reach it tomorrow and by the 20th I think I shall be home I shall look for a letter from you on it. you substitute your presence therefor Let me hear from you or see you soon

Give my kind regards to Mrs G. and any inquiring friend

Yours Truly

Charles Wright

Nathaniel Pitt 8th 1836

Dear Dr

Yours of the 5th was not received till Saturday night and I take the earliest opportunity of answering it. I am rather sorry that Dr Baker was forgotten in the acknowledgements for he was of great assistance to me at the beginning of the expedition. He has stated some circumstances truly others may be mainly correct but in a few instances he has deviated very widely from the truth.

In the first place I dont remember making application to Gen Harney although I did to Maj Barbit receiving sympathy but not much encouragement. Dr B. went with me to Capt French and used as he says all his influence in my favor. I did not know or have now forgotten that he made so great sacrifices in my favor. I understood Capt French at the time that he reluctantly consented to give me transportation only. It is by no means true that all my baggage was carried in Dr B's wagon far from it. I did not know till now that he sacrificed the services to which he was entitled in my favor. It was the common talk of the camp that he dispensed with a servants services but it may have been true that I was in Charity for me. I slept under his tent as he says but when he cooked the food I ate. I must say that I was a "shoker". At most I procured wood

[illegible]

belonged the mechanics—the carpenter blacksmith &c which continued for two or three months—I don't remember the exact duration—till that mess broke up from some disagreement and then it was that I took a place at the 2d's table and the situation of his servant—and then or not long after my troubles commenced He complained about trifles—because I would carry a bucket of water on my head like a nigger—because I could not conceal my disgust when he wished me to dye his gray hairs &c.

When I was sick he certainly treated me with kindness and made sacrifices for me and then only he cooked my food If he paid money to teamsters for assistance rendered which is probable I have forgotten it I don't think he hurt himself attending to my specimens for when I was able to inspect them those last gathered were pretty well worked He may have added two new plants to my collection—as he claims "more than one" He claims great credit for the acceptance of my draft and it certainly proved an accommodation to me But his children & those to whom the money was paid were in the enjoyment of it some months before I received a dollar from him—not On our return to San Antonio when he was assured the draft had been honored he paid me the money

He introduced me to Maj Van Horn & Maj Henry by letter and the former readily promised me assistance But as I was then domiciliated in Capt French's train I concluded to remain there I had no opportunity to become acquainted with these officers before leaving San Antonio for the march as they were already some days in advance If I had seen them previously I might not have been so deeply indebted to Dr Baker or at least might have escaped some of the discomfort I experienced

Dr Baker was by no means a favorite in camp If I might judge from expressions often made me by officers and men And yet I could see no reason why they should have complained of him I thought him kind and attentive

Long before we reached the Rio Grande I applied to Maj Henry for rations or permission to buy which was granted and I fully resolved to join some other mess and do my share of the cooking but I abandoned this plan simply from gratitude and a clear prospect of the helpless condition in which he would be left abandoned by me So I bore my discomforts till we were about to return and then I bought a ration joined another mess performed my share of the labor & left the Dr to ship himself He in like manner took his place in a mess of the men didn't do much cooking though neither did he pay (so far as I heard) any commutation money was the subject of much grumbling among his messmates but finally got back to San Antonio utterly disgusted with the service—as indeed he had been from the very start constantly complaining that he was neglected was treated unjustly &c &c.

If you have preserved my letters written at that time you will I think find in them expressions of gratitude ample enough to shield me from the charge of unthankfulness We associated on our return in friendly terms enough till on Devils River above a dispute arose on a mere trifle, commenced low by him, in the course of which he called me a liar and I struck him in the face—an act which I never did before & have never done since a pretty good indication that I am not of a quarrelsome temper

I did not repeat the blow and was sorry afterwards for the act and ashamed too that he should give me provocation & that I should yield to it

I dont know what remedy the Dr expects you to apply to his wounded vanity. You will hardly publish a new edition of Pl. Wr. merely to introduce in the preface expressions of obligation for services rendered me by him. Perhaps a private letter will do — if so very well. If you choose to do it as from you he seems to demand it — well — or if you so desire I will make myself acknowledgements that I think will be acceptable

I have stated to you what I believe to be the facts and with as little coloring as a partisan is capable of giving to his own side of a question. I have no ill will for the Dr. & would be glad to render due acknowledgements for his services in a way that would not appear ridiculous or misplaced

I have no news from Washington — I am better but not well & have been employing my groaning & crippled carcass creeping about & hunting toadstools and other like things for J. Curtis — I am pleased to hear that my old Lieutenant Stone enquires for me & shall be much pleased to hear from him direct

Present my kind regards to Mrs G. — also to Dr Englemann

Let me hear from you occasionally especially if any thing interesting turns up which I would not be likely to learn in the country

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

P.S. If I go on that botanical expedition to Cuba how many sets can be sold and at what price

Wethersfield Sept 12th 1856

My Dear Dr.

By letter just received from Washington I learn that we did not were entirely ignored there in other words that Simpson & myself have no share in the public plunder — the appropriation bill I also learn that my missing package of books was discovered by Purser Boggs snugly stowed away in Adams Express lumber room as they say for non payments of charges whereas Baird shows by his receipt-Book that the freight was paid Then is a mistake somewhere However I am glad enough to learn of their existence and procurability

And now for the Cuba Expedition Do any of your merchants trade direct to Santiago I should like

to go direct to avoid reshipments
Could you make some enquiries in
Boston relative to the matter I sup-
pose there is no steam communication
between our ports & that place Could
passports & all such important documents
be procured in your city, I suppose
I could easily get money through
mercantile houses when funds run
low Would it be well to make cal-
culations to stay much longer than
six months I suppose I really
ought to be here soon after the next
session of Congress to resume my
work on the collections already made
if an appropriation is granted
I am not however extremely anxious
to work for Government if I can get
plenty of employment on my own
projects Let me hear from you as soon
as convenient Yours truly

Charles Wright

Wethersfield Sept 17th 1854

Dear Dr

Yours of the 15th came to night I shall sew the enclosure to Baird and if he can recover any damage well! But I have ordered the package sent to Hartford Rodgers knows nothing about the matter and I think would hardly take them now as they have met with such delay. Indeed I dont see how he could. I ordered them by permission of Ring gold and had they arrived before the termination of the Expedition the cost might have been covered by a requisition — but now I think it is too late No matter I am very willing to keep them I shall write immediately

to Baird

Dont put yourself to any inconvenience about my Cuba views I am by no means bent on going I must get well in the first place a process which seems to be going on very slowly if at all

I am not sure if it would not be better too to wait the liberality of another session of Congress I would rather work up the accumulations of the Expedition just ended before beginning another and should be quite decided to stay at home next winter if I were certain of an appropriation in our favor next spring —— I am not so keen for enterprise on the northern boundary as I would have been three years ago — In fact my energy and spirit of adventure are wonderfully depressed — But I will reflect upon your suggestion and if a fair offer is made I might be induced to go — but not on such terms as in 51-2. A trip on the plains might after all be the thing to make a man of me again "Quien sabe"

Remember me to Mrs Ly.

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

Wethersfield Oct 11th 1856

My Dear Dr

I wrote week before last to Washington for passport but as yet I have no answer Suspecting Prof. Baird was not there and was confined pretty much at home by his sick wife I directed my letter to him or Prof Henry thinking one of them would attend to it — I have written previously to J H Black who lives with Prof B. but I have no reply from him either No information comes about my books What had I better do in such case I can hardly afford the expense of a journey to W. to procure passports for an expedition that may turn out far otherwise than remunerative I wrote to Dr Torrey about the same time as to Prof. B's & he too says not a word in answer What sort of a spirit has possessed these formerly punctual correspondents I am at a loss to guess

Please do not forget my Loniceras at the proper season for transplanting

Direct them to my brother J. G. W. by Express to Hartford and inform him by letter

Can I get the necessary passports at Boston as ship master & traders do or can you get somebody to help me in this business Please write me as soon as you have time

Present my respects to Mrs G. & to Dr Engelmann & Lady Very truly Yours

Charles Wright

from my rheumatics and other ailments
I think I have been benefited by the
voyage I have not yet been far enough
inland to pick up a single botanical speci-
imen Nor can I now give you any more
particular instructions for sending letters
than to direct for the present (if you have
any information of importance to communicate)
to St Jago de Cuba There is mail commu-
nication between New York and Havanna
weekly and the transit from the former
place to this requires but two weeks so
that we can have if necessary frequent cor-
respondence — There is quite a stir here
just now — the debarkation of a large
cargo of live stock for the railroad market —
consisting mostly of Irishmen A bark
from New York arrived yesterday bringing
one hundred and twenty more or less making
the passage in nine days The vessels lately
in have as well as we made quick voyages
Probably I shall write again soon

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Bark N. W. Babbidge
off St Jago Nov 23d / 1856
7 o'clock P. M.

Dear Dr

We have just made St. Jago
Light and in the morning will enter
the harbor (D. V.) Meanwhile I will
tell you what little I have to say
about the voyage You will readily
see that it has been uncommonly
short In fact the wind has been after
us all the time & hardly able to overtake
us We made a beautiful curve of the
voyage from Boston southeasterly
as far as about 74 - then gently turning
passed just to the westward of the Ber-
mudas & thence on a straight line
for Turk's I. passage which we cleared
yesterday in the forenoon

For the first four days out I did not
drink a spoonful of water nor eat
a babe's ration of food but one (& that would
not stay eaten) for seasickness (bad luck
to the spalpeen that invented it) I was in
an awful humor and thought nothing

would ever again pacify me but the building of a bridge across the Florida strait that I might come home over land But a returning good appetite pretty well gratified (eating is a pretty good peace-maker) and subsequent pleasant weather with rapid progress towards port have almost made me forget those few days of discomfort Our vessel is a snug comfortable craft - the master a young cheerful fellow and the other officers not disagreeable shipmates Every thing seems to be done in that quiet though prompt & thorough manner best calculated ensure efficiency in navigation as well as in other affairs On the whole the voyage has been as pleasant as could have reasonably been expected and much more speedy is being but little more than ten days since we weighed anchor

The eastern end of the island appears dry and uninviting but as we approach it jags the hillsides wear a greener garb

26th The sea breeze was provokingly lazy today having lain abed till long after midday affording the sea a chance to give us a good rocking such as grown babies dont go to sleep on At one P.M it came towards us in a gentle soothing manner soon bringing us into good humor and to our anchorage close to town The Capt. & myself went on shore after the tedious ceremony passing the custom-house visited one of the consignees to whom I had a letter of recommendation and who appeared to good advantage and the General a jovial old gentleman of alderманic proportions and appearance I made a few enquiries touching my objects and the facilities & difficulties attending their accomplishment without however as yet eliciting much definite information It will be yet several days before I shall be able to get into the field of active labor I shall be able to write you something more satisfactory I hope by some future mail (this will go P.M. tomorrow) I am measurably free from

Cobre Dec^r 6th 1856

Dear Dr

This is my third day at this place I had turned in but could get no sleep — so I concluded to write myself asleep if possible by giving you my first impressions of the Cobre I left Cuba early on the morning of the 4th crossed the bay in a boat got on the box (apology for car) of the mule ferro-carril and arrived here somewhere about 9 or 10 o'clock and put up at the Spanish posada at a dollar and quarter a day — got my breakfast and set out botanizing — made no very great collection the first day — was rather disappointed in the state of the flora — most of the plants in flower have the aspect of weeds — got a goodly number of cryptogamia Most of the shrubby & arboreal vegetation seems to be out of flower or not yet in flower I have passed by the weeds for the present I intended to stay here about a month but from present appearances two weeks will be sufficient to secure nearly every thing within a moderate distance I have not yet made any arrangement for traveling inland I believe I have a much more correct notion of the rough-and-tumble life of a collector than you have My trunk I must leave behind and every thing but the most necessary apparatus I shall not be able to carry with me more than half of my drying paper I take my Lindley Grammar & Dictionary and a little handful of clothing a

spare knife and magnifier scissors knee[illegible] & thread and a few other such little articles — and these form my travelling luggage I intend to buy me a horse for $15 and a mule for my luggage and boy and "andar a cavallo" when I get through here if I can accomplish it with the assistance of friends who promise to aid me in the matter

Nights before last I got but little sleep The rats scampered over the roof — the dogs barked as if they thought them wolves — the musketoes form their nocturnal meal from such parts of me as were uncovered — the Spaniard kept up an incessant gabble till midnight and renewed it before daylight in the morning I live in a canvass-inclosed room sleep on a cot with a sheet over me (& it is a plenty while you shiver under a pile of blankets) have to call for my wash-water in the morning (no wash-stand in the room) The floor of the apartment is plentifully strewed with rejected portions of the plants which I have put in press and the room is likely to become a barn if it is not soon swept I get two meals a day besides coffee or chocolate in the morning am served in a seperate room from the common crowd being mistaken (I suppose) for a rich caballero I am imagine however that the privileged dining room belongs exclusively to me Any other caballeros that arrive from Cuba (the name given here for Santiago de Cuba) are served in the same room and at the same rickety table One of the proprietors of the establishment is afflicted with the hickups as manifested in an incessant whistling continued without interruption from morning till night and far into the latter The worst of it is he whistles no tune (Mem he is at it now 10 P.M. after the go-to-sleep horn has sounded in the plaza) — or if he does it is such a succession of notes as none but a Spaniard would mistake for a tune There are but few chairs about the establishment and if one happens to stray to the front of the house at night when we want to enjoy the cool air it is sure to be full of a nigger wench & I have to go to the plaza and pick out the softest spot on a stone bench But the moonlit nights are glorious — for all that I mean to leave this posada the first fair chance I have if I jump out of the frying-pan into the fire

The The hay now in my room increased — instead of being removed as I vainly supposed it is swept into a pile behind the door — the accumulation of a week I would have had it removed if I had not long ago given up the notion of trying to play the gentleman while engaged in active botanical labor When I spread out my papers to dry in a back street I have all sorts of questions in French & Spanish addressed to me as to the object of them by the crowd which is attracted to witness the display of "papeles" I have collected two formidable piles — a part of which I shall take out of press tomorrow and pack away as dry Many of them cure quickly Yesterday we had light showers which prevented me from drying — besides which it was quite sultry as it was also this evening when cloudy & misty A friend lent me a paper of Nov 21 this evening con-

taining the account of the loss of the Steamer Lyonnais
Mr Brooks to whom I had an introductory letter lost
a daughter by this casualty and some other persons
from Cuba likewise perished in her so that on our
arrival it was a subject much spoken. Day after
tomorrow I expect to go to a coffee estate some ten
or more miles away in the mountains belonging to a
Mr Bradford a Connecticut man who kindly furnishes
me a horse to ride. I cant be away more than a couple
of days because of the necessity of changing my plants
It is not very likely that I shall find any very great
number of plants different from those which grow
here. Dec 18th Filantropia (the name of Mr Bradfords estate)
pleased me so well on my arrival that I sent the next day
to Cobre for all my luggage and have been ever since
busy as a bee till today which is somewhat lowering
and rainy — so I will finish my letter. Phenogamous
vegetation is here rather meagre and I met with
no localities where it is more abundant than Cobre & here
the principal part of my collection will be cryptogamic. Ferns
are quite numerous, mosses and hepaticae scarce and fungi
quite abundant. This is a coffee estate right among the
mountains about a dozen miles from Cobre. I dont know
how long I shall remain — probably not more than a week
or ten days longer.

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Filantropia Jany 15th 1854

Dear Dr

I have written to you but I forget when where and how often I have been hard at work & as nothing has transpired of importance I have thought it unnecessary to spend much time in epistolary labor I recollect giving a discouraging account of the prospects But I have since been in a better district I fell in with a "compatriota" from Maryland I believe who has been exceedingly kind and hospitable to me and I have now been at his house about a month I did not intend to stop at any one place so long but it seems almost impossible to get away without leaving many things which I may not find elsewhere My friends name is George Bradford He came here many years ago passed apparently some years quite adventurously searching for mines a portion of the time and superintending sugar estates at other seasons at length married a lady of French extraction a descendent of the refugees from St Domingo has three children and a fair prospect of an addition to the number raises coffee and cocoa on his estate and employs a considerable force in mining at Cobre He introduced me to a coffee planter living, (about six miles off the way the road runs) on

a spur of the Lomo del Gato or Catsback the highest
mountain visible from here This I found very rich
in ferns and other crypts and I have spent several
days on it constantly finding novelties and even the
last day obliged by the approach of night to turn
back in the midst of a cluster of things not before
seen and with a scanty supply of specimens of some
of them I am almost bewildered by the abundance
and variety of the ferns & expect I shall commit the
unpardonable offence of collecting forty specimens
of one species and only four of a nearly related
one And with the mosses and hepaticae it isn't much
better at the same time that from their minuteness
it is more difficult to distinguish them than plants
of larger size But I suppose you will now ask
why dont you apply the microscope to them? In the
first place I haven't time and in the second it is in
Santiago in my trunk and what is more it will
stay there till I am ready to return I do what
I can with my pocket lenses of which I have already
planted one the best I had and a present from Mr Tuckerman
By the way you can tell him if you have opportunity
that I am making a fine collection for his special
study if he will take them in hand I read somewhere
I think in the Annales des Sciences naturelles that Cuba
was deficient in Fungi I am of a different opinion
It is true that I do not see many of the more showy
ones & very few Agaraci but it is not the season for them
I doubt whether the writer who ventures the opinion to
which I have alluded was ever in this coast range of
mountains or had seen a collection of Fungi from it
Of the minute forms I am inclined to believe there is a
great variety At least I have not observed so many
in any other country that I have visited Polypores
and the woody kinds are as numerous and varied as I
have found them elsewhere Phaenogamous plants
still form a comparatively small part of my gather-
ings and Compositae make rather a poor show among
them I find some things that puzzle me This when
the plant has only the fruit or the flower only might
reasonably be expected but I lately found one with flowers
and full grown fruit that would not stay any where at
all in Lindley's Artificial Analysis I expect it belongs
to Gesneraceae but the ovary & capsule are entirely
inferior or the calyx is completely adherent, or even forms
a ring above the capsule before the division commences
However with a single book of reference I can not reasonably
hope to locate every plant I may find I have already
accumulated four good stout bundles of dried speci-
mens & have enough in press mostly there dry to form
another I have met but few things of which I could
not get enough specimens In a few cases I have
not succeeded in getting a sufficiency though I sought
diligently In a few instances I have a scanty num-
ber from lack of attention thinking I had put up enough
and discovering when too late for remedy that the supply
was scant Most of these cases I bear in mind and may
be able to supply the deficiency at another time or another
locality Of some weeds I have saved but a few specimens
I find a considerable number of orchids but most of the

N.B I shall have more paper & the finer size when I write
with pens I can however remove, there's room enough

epiphytic ones are out of flower The same is the case with the Pellandias Piperonias or such juicy things are quite numerous and I shall have quite an assortment of them if ~~they~~ I shall ever succeed in drying them I have got one Melastomas plant with a minute berry like coffee and some little orbicular leafed piperaceae that I guess wont be dry before I get home I have a notion to send them away in a good lot of paper and let them take their own time for it

I was on the sick list two or three days but took by Dr B's prescription a dose of calomel and afterwards a dose of salts (much against my conscience) and got better directly — better in fact than I have been for the last six months I have bought a nice little horse which has easy gaits travels well and stays and feeds right when I leave him I go to Santiago tomorrow for a supply of paper & in a few days I think I shall remove to a new locality I don't whether it would pay to penetrate far into the island as in the dry season vegetation is much parched & water scarce Mr B. thinks this is the best locality for my operations He says that I cannot penetrate much farther westward along this mountain range for want of roads that there are no settlers there and that it would be very difficult to get into the mountains if at all practicable He thinks Baracoa on the N.E. coast would prove a good place for me to visit and I may go there if business becomes dull here You can tell Dr Engelmann that cactaceae are pretty plenty but I have not seen a flower of one on the island

Very truly Yours Charles Wright

P.S. I have just received your letter of Jan 1st and am glad to hear that you are all well I am much obliged for the papers and will write you more at length by the next mail

Filantropia
February 7th 1857

My Dear Dr

Not a word yet from any friend in the East There is foul play somewhere I send you the address of my friend He is an old resident and gets letters regularly Perhaps one sent to me under cover will not lose the way At least I wish you to try it I returned yesterday from an excursion westward about a dozen miles by way of the road though hardly a third of the distance in a straight line I imagine I collected a number of things not found here Two high points near here however Ninamina & Loma del Gato have been the best localities yet visited I shall probably return to them again

and it seems a long time to receive no intelligence thence especially when two weeks are amply sufficient to convey it

Please write me as soon as you can find time even though you may have written recently for I have no assurance that a letter directed to me will ever reach me

Very truly
Yours
Charles Wright

I have now no plan of labor matured other than that of staying here for a time longer and exploring this region or some parts of it yet unvisited more thoroughly. It has afforded me thus far a fine harvest. Hitherto the variety of plants has been so great that I have been unable to travel in a day more than a mile or so after getting into the particular locality that I wished to examine. In future novelties will continue to become fewer at least until the rainy set in, and I will be able to go over more ground in a given time. I shall probably go further also on excursions of three or four days duration when I get better acquainted with the people and country and learn to talk some at which I am sorry to say I am not like to be known a "very apt scholar"

Thus far I have been treated with the greatest possible kindness and could hardly be better contented if I were at home and I am beginning to think that I shall make Mr Bradford's a sort of home during my stay or at least my head quarters

New things are from time to time coming into season and it may perhaps be as well to explore thoroughly an area some twenty or thirty miles in diameter as to travel cursorily several hundred so if I should spend the whole time of my stay on the island in this district I may perhaps secure nearly as good a collection as if I extended my travels eastward & westward and inland as I originally intended

At any rate I want to remain here until I receive letters from home. It is getting now pretty near three months since I left home

Filandrokia March 6th 1857

My Dear Dr

I received yours of Jany 10th four or five days ago just as I was starting for what will probably prove my last ramble over Minarenes Your delay in writing combined with that of my brother has caused me perhaps to do injustice to the Post-office officials at Habana I was strongly induced to believe my letters had been stopped there I am winding up my business here preparatory to going to Saltadero on Cumberland Harbor My present plan is to spend a month or so there if I can make it profitable and then go to Banaco a 6 month spent there also will bring me into the hot and rainy season of the year by which time it will be necessary to wing my way northward or risk my health I shall by that time I trust have accumulated a respectable number of specimens at least enough to satisfy my acquisitiveness & keep up my reputation for industry & perseverance I have succeeded too in making good specimens and lately ~~I believe~~ I have hit upon a method by which to overcome the aqueous retentiveness of the Piperaceae & Orchids A few days will decide the matter — I have not received Dr Hooker's communication The difficulties of transporting bulky &

heavy articles are so great that I had nearly given up the idea of attempting a collection of any living Cactaceae I will however see what Dr Hooker has to say & then conclude what I will try to do I have visited only four coffee estates besides Mr Bradfords these with Cobre & Cuba (when I collected only a few crypts) make but seven special localities the extremes probably not more than twenty miles apart in a straight direction These all lie strictly speaking along the copper mine range of mountains Vinasmina & Lomo del Gato two adjoining prominent peaks or short ridges have proved the most fruitful fields & those localities have been more thoroughly examined than any other except this immediate vicinity

March 9th I have finished packing up preparatory ~~for~~ to removing My dried plants are in six bundles or bales snugly sewed up in cloth I shall take them to Cuba tomorrow or next day and leave them to be shipped Then as soon as I can get my remainning paper my trunk &c. on the way to Saltadero I shall start myself on horseback

Cobre March 14th I have my packages here & am waiting the movements of a lazy lying arriero to take them to Cuba I have lost two days already and see no prospect of getting them to town today unless I send them by railroad and there is uncertainty in that

I received Sir W. J. Hookers letter day before yesterday and might just as well have got it by the middle of January It fell into the hands of the Consuls deputy and has been lying in the office when I have been more than once I am sure since its arrival but without knowing it He is in a mercantile house & what does he care for botany except that of coffee, cacao & cane —— I wanted to get away things to Cuba day before yesterday — in which case I would have been in Saltadero tonight — or tried to it is now I can not do that till day after tomorrow is as soon Then I dont know how long I may have to wait for my paper which goes by sea — not long I hope Since receiving Sir Wm's letter I am more in a hurry than before as I want to do something for him which I fear I shall not accomplish on account of the advance of the season & will be very warm & wet weather

I went to Cuba on horseback day before yesterday and expected my things to follow me but as they did not the same day nor the next (yesterday) I became more uneasy than ever you saw me and though I would rather have taken a combidivy I mounted my horse and rode out here and now in the same state of incertidumbre I am waiting upon that same lazy lounging loitering lying (ahora ha acabado de venir) he has just come at 9 o'clock

I don't know that it is worth while for you to write me again as there is considerable uncertainty about my movements of which however I will keep you informed. You will I suppose of course open the packages & see whether they are in good condition. I am rather of the opinion that they are as well preserved as plants generally, an especially from a tropical region. Remember me to Mrs. G. with the hope that she is rid of the toothache

Very truly Yours

Charles Wright

P.S. The merchant says he will send the plants in about a fortnight

C. W.

Santa Catalina de Guasa
or
Satradero April 3d 1857

My Dear Dr

This morning I received yours of the 3d ult. and though I wrote only a day or two ago I will add a few lines to my correspondence explanatory of the last as I have nothing better to do This is a sad confession to make but nevertheless true When preparing to come to this place I packed up all my dried plants and my remaining paper depositing them in the house of Salle Mayorrol Nos the former to be sent to you the latter to me at this place and both very distinctly marked One of the gentlemen speaks English well & I explained to him fully my wishes Two schooners ply between Cuba & this place making the round in about two weeks but very absurdly as I have since learned from some queer spirit of rivalry they both sail together instead of alternating I left Cuba on the morning of the 15th and was told that my baggage would be sent on the 17th Arrived here however on the evening of the 16th I learned that the schooner had not left this place She said she next evening I had no other resource but to wait as patiently as I could the return of the schooner On the trip she met with some accident & was obliged to put back About the time she was expected I went down to Serro Guayabo on the Bay to get possession of my things as soon as possible

Soon after coming to anchor my travelling bag was sent ashore & the next day a small package of paper Two or three days then passed while I watched anxiously for the arrival of the other two containing my portfolio dried press-board & straps at length the schooner was unloaded and nothing more came for me & I saw the letter of Mr Grisaudy accompanying my things and mentioning only one package of paper Till then though assured there was no more paper for me I had indulged the hope that it would yet come I immediately wrote to the house in Cuba asking them to send me the papers by the quickest possible conveyance regardless of expense I received no answer by return mail which came last night The schooner may be back by the 8th if there is good weather or she may be delayed several days beyond that time If they send overland without delay (the packet) it may be here tonight or tomorrow In a long hot dusty day's journey I never wanted water much more than now I want paper The rains have commenced sufficiently to start vegetation but not stop active labor Many shrubs are in full flower and some nearly past I can't help feeling very sore at this treatment by Mr Grisaudy Almost my last words to him were to entreat him not to forget to send my things by the very first opportunity I have collected little or nothing since the first of March Some days had to be spent in active work drying obstinate things — then everything had to be packed and conveyed to Cuba I lost some days waiting the movements of arrieros & others and now to lose so much time by what appears to me without further knowledge of the matter a most stupid blunder is aggravating to the last degree The last few days I have been collecting some Cactaceae orchid, bromeliaceae, seeds & specimens of wood for them — the last I can not pursue very satisfactorily as the determination of the Family to which any thing belongs is with my limited means a matter of some difficulty to say nothing of the genus & species There are many curious vines & trees many without leaves & flowers or fruit and most wanting one or the other These would be very desirable as objects for the study of the Physiologist if I could give some data for determining them Unfortunately I fear I can do so in very few instances I have a little book which by means of the trivial names gives me a clue to the botanical but I think I have found in it grave errors & I am afraid to trust it

The flora here is remarkably different from that of the Cobre mountains where as you know I spent most of my time In the coffee country back there may be a greater resemblance I shall go there as soon as my paper comes Doubtless that is of more real interest though this looking to me so new would at first seem equally important Yet from its somewhat littoral position & contiguity to Jamaica it will not probably possess so many novelties as might at first appear probably likely I have no belief that I will be able to visit the savannahs this season They are a good way from Cuba I am three days easy travel from the latter You dont know any thing about the road neither

in this Queen of the Antelles They have all over the island "Caminos Reales" but they might more appropriately be termed the "Devils Twistifications" Generally from one place to another you travel three or four times the distance the two are apart in a right line at least in the mountain region. The coast region & the savannahs may be different

I suppose I have received all your letters They are not by me for reference The long time that elapsed before I heard from you combined with the delay of my brother to write promptly suggested my suspicions which probably had no foundation in fact That the custom of detaining & opening letters has prevailed here I can hardly doubt though now not practiced often

I have heard nothing of the arrival of the Cambridge though doubtless she has discharged and gone ere now I can find out I suppose by writing The letter you sent by the vessel has not been delivered

I am domesticated in the house of Mr Brooks by whom I have been entertained with the utmost hospitality He belongs to an extensive firm which does an extensive business in Cuba & here buy upwards all the sugar & coffee made in the neighboring country I brought his brother in Cuba to whom I had a letter of introduction gave me the cold shoulder but this brother has certainly atoned for any appearance neglect of the other

Well I have spun a considerable length yarn whilst I expected to write only a few lines

Remember me to Mrs. G. & believe me as ever

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Santa Catalina de Ignacio
Saltadore Ap. 5th 1857

My Dear Dr

I wrote a day or two ago but a thought has occurred to me & I will just jot it down as I have nothing better to do. I have told you of the abundance of ferns collected at Cobre & thereabouts. The Mosses Hepaticæ & Lichens, likewise form no small item in my collection. Will you arrange with Tuckerman about the distribution and sale of these latter so that I may as soon as possible be put in possession of the fruit of my labors. I have already written to Mr Lewis respecting the Fungi which I believe will form a very valuable collection & you have spoken of Mr Sullivants desire to study the Mosses & Hepaticæ. The Phaenogamous Plants we can dispose ourselves

I have just seen a gentleman belonging to the House of Brooks & Co in Cuba who tells me that my paper is there but he does not know in whose possession — probably in the Custom House unless it was consigned to some firm there. There will be no trouble in finding when it is & in getting possession of it The letter accompanying it is probably in the post-office I will send for it A schooner sailed yesterday from Cuba for this place I hope it will bring my paper I think I shall send for the last but by the first opportunity any way lest the other should not come

Present my kind wishes to Mrs G & my hope that with the return of Spring she may be rid of both-ache and other ailments incident to cold weather

Very truly Yours
Chas Wright

P.S. Inclose this in one to my brother

Monte Verde
April 23d 1854

Dear Dr

I got your letter of July 19th day before yesterday This is the one that came by the Cambridge I dont know why it should have lain so long overlooked in the office I got your subsequent one containing the letter of Prof Lindley some time ago And I may as well tell you at once what is the prospect of doing any thing for him I cannot now call to mind a single plant (a few weeds excepted) that I think would answer the wishes of the Society whose desires he presents to me There are passion flowers that creep all over creation and trees that mount up to heaven both having handsome flowers but all the herbaceous plants that I have seen & small shrubs are remarkable for their little inconspicuous flowers There are eight or ten cactaceæ of which those that produce handsome flowers are of large size I have found some handsome orchids but I dont know whether they are ever propagated from the seeds in gardens At some season of the year I could probably get some handsome Liliaceæ but I have not seen any yet

There is an Opuntia that grows exactly like any other tree without the slightest trace of division into joints that bears fine leaves on trees not quite so

long and slender it is true as those of willows but much more so than a corresponding proportion of the trees The flowers are purple & few sepals & petals Young & thrifty sprouts from a stump are usually spiny The old trunks have few remaining and they are a pretty good share of long & very delicate ones more like the thorns of ordinary thorny bushes than the spines of common spinkas

The queer thing of which I wish you can venture to say emphatically is not Lobeliaceae The reason I did not send you a flower may be that it was not easily accessible And I well remember that at first when my attention was particularly directed to it I had found but one or two flowers but plenty of fruit Subsequently when I found plenty of flowers I had quit wondering what it was & had put it down as an anomalous individual among Gesneraceae I hope before many days you will have a chance to examine it.

I wish you had written to me before stating your desire to have branches of wood sent to you also Liana That term by the way is about as indefinite as the word bejuco here As the latter means almost any sort of a bush the former means I believe almost any kind of a vine so that you would have passiflora Bignonias Phytolaccas Piperaceas many of which to identify with the flowers you would have to cut a climb large trees & then you would have the unpleasant job of untangling the one you want from its neighbors & tracing each from its stem to its flowers Unless the means of identifying the plant to which the woody lianas were given I imagine the function would be of little value So I had known your wants when I was at Mr Bradford I could have done something for you now I have so much other work to do & the increasing heat of the weather makes me less energetic or more lazy if you please that I hardly know whether to give you any hope of such things Besides as I said already made a beginning for Hooker & given him reason to hope for more I may as perhaps to make him another collection and then am here ample materials for it

The rainy season has fairly set in Showers are frequent the ground wet and even the secaderas patches of sunshine unfrequent and small Seven or eight days of the eleven I have been here it has rained more or less though I have had pretty good luck in drying by giving particular attention to it The mornings are commonly without rain though the dew is abundant From the middle of the day onward the showers come on

I doubt much if I shall need the last box of paper I have yet some of my original stock remaining

24th Today I went to a small Pinal near here and procured specimens with young & old fruit & young also specimens of another Gramineae — a tree a foot in diam-

or more near the ground and sixty ft high Some may be larger Specimens I picked up a few other things among which was a large Euphorbia 10 ft high with large flaming red bracts I was driven away from the Pinal however by the rain without enjoying the opportunity of examining it even cursorily I shall return to it tomorrow

Remember me to Mrs Gray

Very sincerely as ever

Yours

Charles Wright

Upper Ford
May 3d 1857

Dear [illegible]

I don't know that I made you a visit when I was down to Lynchburg in March — a little visit I mean of your house as the Dr. & the children & my self with Edward & Conway stopped — [illegible] on my way [illegible] — there is a house there — how this neighborhood [illegible] — I suppose you will not [illegible] about me & my doings — I am [illegible] here in the potash [illegible] — I have [illegible] — I [illegible] — I [illegible] — I

[illegible] to go [illegible] consort with any proper companion
[illegible] I were to put on clean clothing every day
it would require the strength of [illegible] to keep me half-decent This together with the difficulty
transporting a large outfit of garments [illegible] the
the necessity of starting on the journey in warm days
in the rainy season would seriously [illegible] my
stay if I can retain in the house a change to put on
when I return so that I can appear at table & with
the family in attire that will not quite outrage all de-
cency. And now under these circumstances you want
me to stay till July or August & to penetrate into the
interior and [illegible] the Savannahs When is your conscience
[illegible] an certainly growing hard hearted Moreover in
order to fulfill the contract of Hooker & myself I cut two
axes pieces of stems of trees [illegible] and
& bring in a load of these on my back so that in front
I run against bushes & trees I collect the mud
my lower extremities collect from the puddles in the
road and my back load of wood keeps [illegible]
down on my head — I will be able to collect a consid-
able number of [illegible] in this place &
I will [illegible] to do it nothing can keep me from
go to Bonpland in the steamer for I owe him [illegible]
[illegible] Palmatums [illegible] & as I get new ideas &
will send to you at Paris you can [illegible] with Hooker
Mr Lescallé, [illegible] for in a few days I shall [illegible]
middle of the month to cross the cordillera [illegible]
this side of Quito I should like to [illegible]

intend to go with him. A stay there of two or three weeks
will [illegible] for the collection of the principal
[illegible] I have serious [illegible] for my future
movements — this last scheme has broken up my former one
— I am returning to Bolivar and pleasing this for a while
[illegible] with [illegible] I wait for the [illegible] determined character
[illegible] It will depend somewhat on the intelligence I may
receive from [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible] to Bogotá
[illegible] as far as [illegible] is interested in the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Whatever he wants cost what it may in order to do
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
arrangement by which I may have [illegible] over
over a reasonable share of the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Have had but very little rain. Yesterday I lost my-
self in the woods and brought up at a neighboring farm-
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
here just a quadrant of the circle The impression
mind is [illegible] I know better that [illegible]
[illegible] never had hog-knowledge and
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] on the Blanca more or less
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

May 8th Saltadero I am thus far on my way to my new botanizing ground It rains nearly all day today the first light showers overtaking us about half way on our road to town Tomorrow we make an early start & the next day reach our destination D.V. I have packed a hogshead full of living plants for Kew & hope it to be shipped Any former remittance is on its way there. The paper you sent is here I doubt whether I shall need any of it I have found a queer little composite in a single locality & under circumstances such as to make me suspect its indigeneity It is a little prostrate thing on a bank by the roadside with white flowers Capitulum 4-flowered—two opposite pistillate—the other two staminate or perfect—I am not certain that I have exactly described it—only I know that the two pairs (if you can call the opposite florets such) are different I dont remember the polypetalæ I have saved but few specimens & as I passed it today I saw a number of flowers but I could not stop for them I shall have I hope another opportunity of getting it

Please send a copy of Dr Banes <u>arctic explorations</u> to Señor Federico Lescaille Care of Brooks & Co Santiago de Cuba (Charge to me of course)

Yours truly

Charles Wright

& the other matter we shall [illegible] give any assistance to any thing — but I think I may say to be sure that we are all well
But our poor little Cat and has been on his back the whole way — he tryed the quarter boards but it would'nt stay put

In one of the bundles of woody specimens you will find a few packages of what I were living animals (epiphytes) I can send them to Kew or to Washington or make any other disposition of them you think or see they are alive

Present my respects to Mrs [illegible]

[illegible]

At Sea Sept 10th 1857

Dear Dr

We are approaching N. Y — hope to be there tomorrow morning left St Jago 22nd ult — have made a long passage — plenty of calms — head winds but not a good fair wind for our home It is as likely as not the vessel will be kept in quarantine though we have no sickness on board & there was none when we left I may stay forty-eight hours to know the certainty of the matter or I may go home as soon as I can get away I either can I will make it my arrangements to have the botany sent on to you as soon as possible — I suppose it will be necessary for me to go to Washington at an early

[illegible] to send on the [illegible] of Behrings
[illegible] Botany [illegible] & have
been hoping [illegible] to make a joint labor of it I suppose
I can do a good deal of the work
[illegible] in comparison & the
manual labor generally as well as
the description [illegible] if we [illegible]
the pay is [illegible] that will be my only
income I shall necessarily need
a considerable portion of it I would
like your views on the subject Dont
hesitate to express your views freely
for it would be no great undertaking
for me to get up the job entirely
though I think we could do it better
together But if we undertake it
I dont mean to stop at the half-way
house — I shall be inside through
if the appropriation holds out

I have four more bundles of plants
like the first sent which I hope
you have received & two bundles speci-
mens of wood These last I propose
that you shall divide as each
specimen is enough for two — keep one
yourself for your trouble & send the
other to Hooker They are all num-
bered & in the bundles of specimens
are corresponding numbers attached
to [illegible] keep the [illegible]
time — if we can agree upon the
above plan for a joint publication
of the Behring's St. Botany we
might at the same time perhaps
[illegible] to Florula Boreali
I shall look for a letter from you
on my arrival home

Hooper Bula quite well but have
[illegible] the usual other miseries
[illegible] healthy a sea voyage — one and
[illegible] an outlet to any thing

on shore in time in you by the first boat or at least so to prepare it for sending after me that I can safely precede it. When I get settled & at work. I shall write again more at length

I believe I wrote you that I got all the things you sent to New York for me

Remember me to Mrs G.—— and to Mrs Clarence when you must see her or la Señorita.

Sincerely yours

Chas Wright

St. Jago de Cuba
November 30th 1858

My Dear Dr.

I have the pleasure to announce our safe arrival here day before yesterday after a passage shorter than the average & considerably less than that of any vessel that has come in since or for some time previous. We were just 11 days from Sandy Hook to the anchorage here.

I have received a cordial welcome from my old friends & acquaintances. I have just spoken to Mr. Bradford He was at Cobre on my arrival & only came back this morning Tomorrow night the steamboat goes to Guantanimo thence by

railroad 15 miles to Baltadem) but I fear I shall not be ready to embrace the chance. If not I must wait a week which I regret to lose or leave my things to be sent on. In this case I fear neglect and the consequent vexation which I once before suffered. I dont know but I ought to keep in mind the old adage about the "bird in the bush" & stick to my paper. I dont find Mr Lecaille here nor get any intelligence from him. If I knew he had preserved my paper I might not have so much hesitation. Between this & tomorrow night something may turn up to settle the matter

We have on the whole as pleasant a voyage as could well be expected — no storms nor much calm & but two days head wind — rather narrow accommodations — no room for promenade — the little space possible for that use rather encroached upon by the crowd of forward passengers 135. The weather after the first 3 or 4 days was quite comfortable (no rain) till we entered this port — then it was still & hot. The high temperature does not much incommode me.

I am domiciliated at the Hotel Francais with all my baggage ashore. The vessel may haul up to the dock this evening in which case I hope I may be arranged for getting my letter

Monte Verde, Dec 5th 1858

My Dear Dr

I arrived here on the 2nd inst 15 days from New York. I came by the first boat that left Cuba for Guantanimo after my arrival on the island. I was received by the old gentleman and his family with unmistakable evidence of pleasure besides by a crowd of visitors some of them old acquaintances & Mr. Gundlach a fellow naturalist though devoted to Zoology.

I had my things discharged as soon as the vessel hauled up to the dock on the morning — nothing being touched that day, & I used all diligence to have them examined at the Boston House & then removed to the steamer all being accomplished in one day — nearest dispatch for Cuba. The steamer sailed at 10 P.M. & before daylight we were alongside the wharf at Guantanimo. [illegible] as soon as possible I had [illegible] before I could look I was in my bed. I made all the haste I could consistently with my comfort in [illegible] through [illegible] its towns. I found a little [illegible] so I have collected only a few things as near as here. To-morrow I shall strike out towards the Peaks, though I have some doubts whether I shall be able to reach them. I think there are hardly as many things in flower as when I was here [illegible]

quite a number of weed-like plants and
Compositae which have a similar
habit of growth to Erica and
myrsinads. Few have attracted
[illegible] my attention to the extent that
Senecio [illegible] which I should be happy in
this case to be the case. I don't see many in
others but all [illegible] and I shall
get quite a [illegible] specimens
The Cattle [illegible] I made a complete list
matter in the [illegible] I had
[illegible] Board for Cape Town

I have no plan of operations yet formed but
I think it will not be necessary to remain
in Cape Town [illegible] before I start to
shoot excursions to the neighbouring districts
must also spend some time in the country
near it. I have been thinking that the hottest
part of mid summer should be spent in the
Cape mountains & that some specific should be
made to get to the summit by Jargonius. This
winter I can give the districts from Cape Town
to Worcester & the [illegible] a pretty good examination
in after years going perhaps as far as Piketberg
Near Bay & [illegible] the Solanaceous parasites
which Prof. Bain is so anxious to have is not
uncommon & I might by going there do a good
thing for Prof. Bain & at the same time do as well
for my own branch of science as almost any
where else except in the highest mountains

Every body is or seems to be pleased with the
the things I brought [illegible] things [illegible] Sunday

they last to be unpacked & the printing-machine
at least put in operation could be [illegible]
ing [illegible] days or [illegible] several weeks more
but [illegible] at the rapidity [illegible] printing
Miss Caroline is quite [illegible] the [illegible] present
& [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] that they would
under very burdensome obligations to me. I of
course look upon the matter in quite
light. It is at least pleasant to be able to
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Feb. 2 I made a short excursion into the country [illegible]
did not start early on account of a drizzling
rain in the early part of the morning. The weather
is so [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
from the [illegible] you get [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
unfortunately they are usually dry & [illegible] they may
be for they were often [illegible] [illegible]
I intended to go out again this [illegible] [illegible]
interrupted [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
collection by a visit from a neighbour with a [illegible]
tack. I found a Proteaceae in the woods but
I cannot say as well in Litchfield. I don't know
what he has done with the grass. It is in some of
the indigenous not in 5-anthera type in which it is most
likely he would have put it if he had not for other
L. Mor. L. gathered to give me a second some specimens
of a Tiny radiacous plant. It is neither of the
three communicated by Gunbach, Hartley does it well
agree with any genus in Endlicher. The bark is
very thin & the inner layer can be [illegible] [illegible]

into quite a pretty lace of network. You may tell
I have been there at my way. I kept my eyes open
for grapes & thought I saw a bunch but was
not. That is a Spanish I certainly have
seen quite a number that are not.

Mr. L. starts for Nanaimo Sept 1st & intends to locate Prichard can say Letters by him

Yours truly

Charles Wright

P.S. Enclosed is a list of the plants spoken of above & a sketch of the flying Squirrel.

Feb 1 was at the place in Langford the large house Mr. Goodacre. I found but a single fertile form & that too young. It was raining & I did not care to disturb it much. On account of the rain I could not photograph his departure till tomorrow. This is especially big & I have written many times over & hope you will be able to make it out. Shall send away to see what it is.

Mount Pleasant
Dec. 7 1881

Dear Sir

This is a rainy day, & in writing this, I do not wish to detract any thing from the many which have preceded it. Since the snow melted or blew away, since my arrival, [illegible] the weather, with its frequent rainy days, its bursts of sunshine, in which every body's clothes dry, its occasional showers and mist, has favored my plants, & another cause, more certain than either, have kept me in the house. For the last two or three days, I have had a touch of rheumatic lameness in the loins. It is not severe, nor stopping, makes it painful to lift a heavy weight, & sometimes comes on me, for an instant, with unusual severity, apparently from a mere change of position, or from some other cause of which I am ignorant. On this account, I have not favored myself, especially, as I have my dries all pretty well occupied. However, I have collected more or less every day. The grass & the harvest will soon be over, and after the past month, a considerable part of the things must with, either in the [illegible] or the process of being passed by.

I am happy to say in relation to my collection that I got in a little [illegible] sunshine in drying my [illegible]. However the most is, in a manner, supplied by having the entire range of the upper room. I spread my specimens by hanging them on [illegible] and a day or two suffices for making my specimens, & the most of them retain a respectable appearance.

[illegible] one thing every day. I have just found what Dietrich
says with Hypnia. It seems to have come after his time,
& he ignores it for Swartz' older name, Spirobolus. helps
me a good deal, but there are lots of things which he
does not mention. I have been looking a little into
the mosses & hepatics & find that a good many are easily
possible to the proper genus. But you must not criticise
me in a good many cases there is considerable guess-work
in the determination. I hope this time to do so well that
Prof. Sullivant won't constantly remind me of the dau[illegible]
The horseleech. Who she was it would probably puzzle all
helminthology combined to ascertain.

You may remember grumbling at me for putting only
one or two specimens of a Phytolacca. I rise to hear no
more complaints. I can't make it out from Dietrich.
This P. decandra, has very much the habit of our P.
decandra. Was I making this appearance when I num-
ber has been cut & burned.

We make considerable use here of the fruit of a tree
called by the French "concombre". It has a pear-shaped light yellow
fruit with prominent obtuse ribs near the large end. It does
look as if it could be any of the species mentioned in
Dietrich. It is cooked & eaten much as summer squash
are in the country at home & makes a pretty good dish.
Solanum nigrum is one of the standard dishes on the
table every day under the name of Laman (Fr. pron.). I
can't find the word in any of the Dictionaries. It is probably
some aboriginal or provincial word. As the occasional
[illegible] is a species of Cyrtis growing on the thick
branches. Its white fruit is quite palatable. It makes its
appearance only occasionally, under the influence

above, of course at most here change it may
after rains. I have not observed it carefully. It is
of a firmer texture than most agarics & may be
of some allied genus.

I remember saying something about cutting a
little finger, when I [illegible] for
dots, not because I got the fingers, but because I failed
to take any more of the item. This time I have done
better.

Again today I remember the boiler by my superior
way Mrs James, in [illegible] over I went
[illegible] of about to cut, I would scrape for ordinary
[illegible] the boiler, or else [illegible] I do not want
cover a large area, & [illegible]
over a large compact [illegible] in one or more
[illegible] in any instance, the [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

duly inclosed to Gosnell, that he might thereby miserably trouble Torrey specimens for the ones I had sent him. He seems to have made them all out very well, with two or three exceptions; & why he should cry out against my botanizing plan, I am at a loss to know. However, I'll compromise with him in the way -- by sparing the leaves, which I was not obliged to do before; but the stems & leaves must feel the fire, unless they yield readily to paper alone.

22nd At last, we have had a fair day. I would be unwilling to assert that it has not rained, here; but I have not seen any. We have had a clear, sunny day; & we have improved it -- the negroes in drying coffee, & your humble servant in drying plants. You better believe, I have made some of them sweat. I have had on hand, a good while, some hard customers; but, I, pretty well, used them up today. Orchids, Peppers, some ferns, one Rubiac. which I can't make out, & Phytolaccas had been bothering me long enough. The latter are clever Possums. The instant you gather them, they wilt right down, as much as to say, "I'll dry up in a minute." But, -- the hypocrites -- you may change them, day after day, and they still remain cold, cold, cold. But, today, I set all my blotting-board & pasteboards at work, absorbing the solar rays; & if I didn't give some of them a sweat -- then I'm no Yankee. I think I did the business for about all of them, unless it be the Rubiac. & one pepper.

I have begun to collect specimens of wood, vines &c. Now about your wants, in this line. You seemed, if I remember, more desirous of getting vines &

curious kinds of growth, than sensible specimens of wood of all and any kind. These are comparatively easily to obtain; & I shall try to satisfy you in this respect; but when, it come to cutting down trees, blocking out sections & lugging them home, it gets to be hard work; this, I dont love to do. As Hooker spoke for specimens of wood of all kinds, for a compensation, the last is an additional inducement to me to do what I would naturally for the good of science, & I could bestow upon it the time & labor necessary. If you want duplicats of all these, it will largely increase my labors; & I judge you have no Royal Garden Treasury to draw from, to give me even a small compensation. You may think it is but little more trouble to get two sections of wood than one; but, you will excuse me, if I think I am better qualified than you, to judge of the difference.

We look for Mr. L. home, day after to-morrow. I do but little talking, unless I talk to myself, & I never was very good at that. Mr. Dalton & myself manage to communicate to each other, at least some of our thoughts by hobbling along, now on a French leg, & now, on a Spanish. We would, doubtless, have better improved Mr. L's absence, but a Mr Vinet has been here most of the time; & while two French men talk & I can do little but listen; getting precious little benefit from that. So, I am most of the time in my room, attending to my plants; or in the woods, looking for new ones. Hence, if I seem to spin a long yarn, out of little or nothing, you must charge it to my

desire for a little gossip, & as I cant get much of it here, I resort to you. So, if you find it tedious you can stick it in the fire, & turn it over to some one who has nothing to do to hunt for the scattering grains among the chaff.

I am happy to say, that my rheumatic lameness is very much abated, (but not quite gone)

Dec 26. I have been looking over this letter & find that the first part is almost illegible. It was written with execrable ink. I wrote to Mr L. when he went to Cuba to get some better & this present writing I think will show an improvement. I hope you will be able to make it out for I cant write it over — you know my weakness!

Mr L. returned at the time specified, & I now am able to talk again.

I went under the guidance of Mr. Vasey to visit a waterfall & farallones or rocky cliffs. These localities afforded me a good many novelties. It is a curious fact which I am unable to explain that all the farallones I have visited have afforded me plants not found in other places or not scattered through the forest generally. On the very brink of these cliffs grow several kinds of shrubs that I have seen in no other localities. What the inaccessible spots may have growing from crevices of the rocks is more than I can tell.

Most of my first batch of scaldow plants I have turned out of press. I found the Phytolacca still cots, cots, cots. but I know such thin things cant hold water enough to hurt their neighbors much. Besides I shall keep one eye on them & give them another baking if they show signs of deliquescence.

I have spun my yarn long enough, have used up about all the material & will wind up by hoping you have a "merry Christmas" & will have a happy New Year"

Kind regards to Mrs. G. Present my compliments to my hostess down the street when you see her, & to other friends in C.

Sincerely
Yours,
Charles Wright

Monte Verde Jan. 1. 1859

Dear Dr

I wish you a happy new year. I am writing home that I want to run the risk of being set down "a bear" and give you a botanical talk-talk. To begin with. Every time I go into the woods among my collections I am tempted to get on my return for not getting enough of this or that form. With the higher families I can get along pretty well without running much risk of accumulating a great number of specimens of the same plant from forgetfulness whether I have collected it previously. But having no books with which to study forms I can't keep in mind from week to week the slight differences in form in dissection &c so as to avoid the risk as I once began of getting fifty specimens of some one plant and only five of a similar one. & I can't unpack & compare every time I am in doubt. I suppose I know what you would say "collect a plenty whenever you are in doubt" But I fear that my collection may thus become more bulky than useful. But suppose I am returning home with my portfolio full & such a case occurs— I think I shall have to run the risk of the scolding. I don't know that I can do better than to screw up my courage to bear it with imperturbable indifference, perhaps laugh in your face, tell you to go do better if you can.

I have a little Burmanniacea which has all the characters of Gymnocarpa—the boat shaped anther-valves spreading the stigma with them, &c. but the external segments of the perianth have on each side a linear lobe of their own length folded inwards. The inner segments are short & club shaped.

As to the dehiscence of the capsule what is meant by "angulo unico" I don't perhaps clearly comprehend but this dehisces along the upper side. I should observe however that when I examined the plant I had but four or five specimens and I was chiefly then limited that I have found more but have given them no further examination.

I have among rubbish a Dilocarpus or something very near it. I send you some bits of a Myrsinaceous bush which don't well agree with anything in Endlicher I have a Rangiadaura which has the calyx "minutissime denticulatus" & only 9 or 10 stamens according to the character the calyx should be 5-phyllous & the stamens as many as 12 It appears to be common. The fruit of the plant I have marked as Villaresia seems to be Mastic I have enclosed the best remains of flowers I could find. I want like to have your opinion of the little scraps I send. You can examine them perhaps with figures.

I am doing a good business among the fruits. I think I wrote you before that this appears to be the season for them (at least many trees) shrubs & herbs flower but have the fruit. I have set myself in consequence of this state of things more to the study of the structure of the fruit & as I have time my observations & notes may be of some value besides accustoming myself to a more thorough study of the different forms of fruits without relying so much as I have done on the flower. Be some large families which have lately been worked up as the nettles Melastomaceæ &c. I can do little but guess at the natural orders to which many things belong & particularly the Genera & the revision of them in Linnæa is to stand.— Tomorrow I am to have an Indian to go with me & point out trees under & near which certain flowers & fruits are found that I may know which to cut.— Kind regards to Mrs. G. Sincerely yours Chas Wright

Monte Video
Jan 17th 1859

Dear Dr

your letter of Monday Dec/ Nov. 15th [illegible] has just arrived Your requisition for 40 specimens of ferns & for the neglect of common plants quite deranges my plans I wish I had got it in proper time. I have been going on now six weeks on the 6th Plan collecting or aiming to collect 16-20 specimens of every thing. Luckily the wet I have yet had but lightly touched. This will for such an extraordinary quantity of ferns will be to fill it in

what you have got. As To Lobelia and I have not yet got into a perfectly amiable mood on account of his neglect of my letter. When he learned I was going to Cuba he could find time to write. He has now had in hand more than a year the Cuban mosses & those of the Carolinas & I do not remember as I have received any benefit from them in any way. I had half a mind not to send him any more. I'll study about it.

If I adopt your suggestion of receiving specimens I will need a new installment of paper & perhaps you had best send me ten or a dozen reams in putting up a ream of cheap cap

heavy tax on my physical powers
Ferns in general are easy to dry
but some hold their juices
with as much tenacity as
orchids & purleys. I don't
know but I shall have to
charter a nigger & a jack-
ass to accomplish such an
amount of collections
Week before last—that is—from
the 27th to the 31st inst. Mr. L.
was cutting down a piece of
timber & I had a busy time
among the rubbish getting
the never mostly pairing plants
with a good deal of Bromeads
—abominable things to dry
Today & have given them a
looking in the sun and in my
black press-board—capital
things for such purposes & for
drying juicy fungi & indeed any
kind of these last plants—in
fact like the nigger, rabbit
going any way & for any thing
—almost. I wish I had
twenty of them thinking. I would
appropriate a good portion of the sunny days to
my use. I find a great
many things not recognis-
ably figured in descriptions
I have the species of Bur-
seraceae to look after the genus Ic
a. I can't find it nor any
(synonym)
apology for ignoring it
Cic to Cryptos I have been
doing considerable It is not
always possible to get a suffi-
ciency of such things
as you want & afterwards it
is very difficult to remember

had better send me as above suggested a dozen reams at the first convenient opportunity. My portfolios measure 12 x 18 inches as you know. I like a rather thin light but pretty firm paper.

A word or two in reference to form. What should be considered a specimen. Some species are easily collected and can be given in abundance. Some thymenophylla grow among the fibres of tree ferns and it take three cells to get enough. Of very large ferns it would be folly to think of getting one whole one or its equivalent for every subscriber & in such cases one pinna or a pair seems just as good a specimen as a dozen when they are scarce as Woodsia ilvensis I am told it seems as if they might be split at least the fertile fronds for tickets & such other uses as I find for white or black paper as catching the sheets of fungi. Send it to Broeske & Girandy & anything else you may have occasion to forward. They are very clever & accommodating men. B. was a fellow passenger out here & I had made his acquaintance before he despatched your letter to me here. There will be no need of haste in doing this & you can await any convenient opportunity — perhaps it will be best to wait till I write again.

Please tell me what the enclosed capitulum belongs to. It is a weed coming up in pastures - leaves in pairs & [illegible] oval white involucre [illegible]

petiole winged beneath. It in a large branching acid, panicle or corymb rather

I have accumulated enough to make a creditable package but I haven't yet time to arrange it so as to keep duplicates. As yet I have only got them into Monopets Polypets Apets, Endogens & Ferns.— the other cryptos in another package but still separated however so as to be readily arranged for the respective cryptogamists

I enclose a little plant for Prof Lindley which I have ventured to describe & name. Of course it is new! Such a little peckaninny of a thing nobody else ever saw before & I could find but four plants & them of them in flower. If you are really good natured you may get one of them. I did not dare to spoil more than one flower in the examination so that then is some guesswork in the genus but the specific name is first rate. If any body ever finds it hereafter & knows that there is a little plant with such a name he may say at once "Eatonia" without further examination

Sight! I have been out among the ferns today. I got enough of one or two perhaps & made considerable additions to a few others of which I had got enough on the old system. I find I have used up all my collecting paper now & shall have to send tomorrow to Saltmarsh for more & upon second thought I believe you

I have sometimes thought you seemed to be endeavoring like the boy to make an auger hole with a gimlet trying to make a big specimen out of several which God had made little. If I remember well you expressed a preference for folding one side of the proof upon the other I do not agree with you in that half a form shows its real character as well as the whole & when it is too bad to fit the press I shall trim it down. I will however in general make the sections as large as they can conveniently be sawed & then if they are short they can be further trimmed down if we think proper

I will however weigh carefully any suggestions you may see fit to offer & shall be glad to receive any advice on the subject.

I have not the President's Message & do not find it such a concentration of abomination, as I expected from the denunciations of it in the Courier des Etats Unis. I do not belong to that class of political hyenas who are always roaming about for something stinking & if they meddle with any thing that isn't so they bespatter it with the superabundance of their own filth.

I am no advocate of the Presidents policy with regard to Cuba & the other countries inhabited by Spaniards. I dont like the breed generally & dont care to be much mixed up with it

Write me as often as you can & keep me posted up in what is going on in the Botanical world. How is the suit for the recovery of the value of the lost plants progressing? If I am lucky I suppose I shall get it before I am a very old man

Give my best regard to Mrs Gray

Yours sincerely

Chas Wright

Monte Verde
June 24th 1857

My Dear Dr

You will I fear suspect that my dislike of writing so often expressed to you was all a sham however here goes. I talked some about ferns & specimens in my last. Today I found an Allosorus. I suppose which will illustrate the difficulty I felt about making a section any thing like a fair representation of the frond. This is about 3-angular tough as long as broad pinnate or sub bipinnate that is the lower pinna are pinnate & the pinnules on different sides of the pinna very unequal in size. Sometimes two lower pinna are pinnate. Now a simple pinnule or even a small fragment of one shows the venation & the structure of the sorus & would seem to be as really a representative of the plant as two or three pinna when the entire frond can not be saved. The large fronds of this fern are three or four feet long by two broad

I found today a little or this which is apparently entirely leafless. I remember finding it on my former visit in fruit only & I sent it among the unfortunate things that perished, so I can't make a careful description of it from the fresh flower. It grows on the twigs of the Guavas. I think I found it formerly on the coffee but most of the specimens now are in fruit but there are several flowers. I had not time to look over Endlicher before night. It is such a peculiar plant that I think I should recognize the description if it is described. I found also today more specimens of Sauvagesium trimorphythum but rather "passe"

I wrote you that I had enough plants for a pretty good package but I think best now to delay sending any till I can go over & fill up the sets of those ferns already collected to the required number. It will not take very long to dry up to specimens of such as are in season

Yours truly Charles Wright

(or 2 feet) creeping along the bank for a distance of some inches

and it is out of the question to think of saving them entire. Ro of the stripes. It is useless to think of saving one to every specimen On the whole not wishing to be niggardly I think it will be best to go on making large sections of large ferns & saveing a few stripes for the benefit of those who devote much attention to ferns & the rest must take the chance of the professed filicologists as to size outline &c.

I made some laconic & not very good-humored remarks about Sullivant. I dont see any good reason to retract what I said. I have been now about ten years collecting mosses more or less & I suppose they have all fallen into his hands I have received from him at different times sums of money no great amount if I remember rightly. but probably as much as they were worth. I should not have thought any thing more about it than as a mere business transaction if he had not last summer fall so neglected my business letters which he could have answered in one minute, but found time to write when it was for his interest to do so. In my solitary rambles I study upon such treatment more perhaps than I ought. I am led to compare it to the conduct of a rich haughty man towards a poor man of whom he has just bought some commodity — he hands him his money perhaps with a kick be— & tells him to begoff. Now dont believe for a moment that I think D. means to treat me in such a way. I think too well of mankind generally to believe so & as I have always said of Dr. Bigelow he did not mean to treat me so badly as he really did. To sum up the whole matter he did not treat me right & I feel it so. I dont care a great deal about his money so long as I feel that he think me a "no body." You call him a "good fellow" His neglect of me has not made on my mind so deep an impression of his goodness.

Monte Verde Feby 2nd 1859

Dear D

It is a raw cold drizzly morning. Prof. Jam dressed in much the same clothing I wore last winter in Cambridge & yet am no more than comfortable. I have just donned a pair of woollen socks for my feet were cold. It is lightning up a little in the east.

Yesterday I found a big[illegible] Tribesia of which I sent you some account & a specimen. It was growing on a rocky ledge in the full facing the north & appeared much at home, but it seems almost impossible that it progenitors could have lived here, two or three years ago, when it was a dense forest. They are natural clasps or "fall-ones" as they are called a mile or so from here which may be its home proper. I have not received them. See if you can recognise it by the description without seeing the specimen!

Tribesia pygmaea. Pili articulati hirti; caule brevi; foliis alternis ovatis basi angustatis. Scapis multiplo longiore, vaginis adpresse setosis. Radiis sub-12 linearibus nervis subtus rubris. Capitulo fructifero hemisphærico; involucri squamis obovatis spuse villosis crassiusculis ciliatis achenio æquilongis vel paulo longioribus. Corollis exterioribus achenio longiore apice incinata.

I have yet a hundred species of ferns I can call to mind a good many more that I have not yet collected either because I have found my hands full to secure what I have or because they are not in season or because they have not been observed in this vicinity. I am sorry to say that a number of them

show but few specimens & some only a single one. I hope however to meet them more intimately ere again. There are several Aroideæ growing on the boundary trees that seem to produce their fertile fronds very sparingly or in a scattering manner. Such is Anthurium. I have not yet secured a specimen in good many of the species run from 10-20 & 30. Of most of these I know the localities & only need time to fill up the deficiency of numbers.

Last week I set about a systematic study of them so far as to determine the genera in which I succeeded pretty well. I found this to be absolutely necessary in order to avoid the blunder of mistaking one for another, and the error of sending several things, amounting to 60 in all, in the same package, under the impression that it contained 40 specimens of the same species. I can now pretty readily distinguish a Polypodium from an Aspidium & an Asplenium from both which I am ashamed to say I could hardly do before. Formerly I was content to tuck away a fern with the simple word Filices & the locality, &c Several of the largest ferns I have secured in full number.

I ought to add perhaps respecting the little Trichomanes I send that some specimens have a leafy stem of much greater length than those inclosed which seems to be the normal form. There will be specimens enough for distribution if you dont try to "make an auger hole with a gimlet"

Lindley describes Epidendrum polygonatum n. sp. one of the very commonest orchis hereabouts. If so common a plant be new it would seem that the same family should furnish other novelties in these woods. & such I believe to be the case. I find little Pleurothalli & Lepanthes which seem different from those I collected before. Therefore the orchis which gave so many new species in the former collection would seem to merit special attention as well as the fern. I have examined several pretty carefully without satisfying myself that they are in my former lists or rather tending to convince me that they are not. The fact that this — the very highest part of the island except Tarqui farther west & close on the coast — has never been visited by any special botanist before my former sojourn here at a different season of the year may afford good grounds to believe that a thorough examination of these small epiphytic orchids will reveal several more new species. Is Epidendrum polygonatum — so common here — confined to this elevated region? I must take notice when I am in a lower one. The fact that many of them grow upon the highest branches of large trees which require to be felled or climbed (both of which I do at times) may account in some measure for the novelty of these little plants.

I brought home before an Ophioglossum or something akin to it — a single specimen only — with a palmate sterile frond & several pendulous fertile ones — At least such are the few specimens I have found this time. What is it? Endlicher's italicised remarks at the end of the character, if these are of any value, would seem to exclude it. I have not examined it at all. Was it 100 or 200 species of ferns that my former collection contained? From what I have already collected the former number would seem too small & the latter seems rather too large to expect. Yet if I remember right it was within a few units of one or the other number.

Mr. G. starts for St. Jago tonight & I must close. Give my best wishes to Mrs G. Write as often as you can. I am now ten weeks away from home & no letters yet

Yours truly

Chas Wright

Prof. A. Gray

Monte Vista Feby 15, 1859

Dear Dr

A Norther left me at home today. It rained last night now all the early part of the day we had a big dish. In fact I suppose we are in a storm about as we used to have upstream. One situated favorably for viewing our condition. Often above or below. It finally between weeping & smiling cleared about midday. It's a rainy day no weariness time. I have my specimen plants, to arrange so that I may occasionally impress in my mind what I have already collected. I am making rapid progress & am learning the complement of the most abundant forms, many of the rest I shall add to from time to time as I meet them. There are some which produce fertile seed so scatteringly that it is great luck to find two or three in a day's botanizing and many times I do not find a single one. I suppose I have as many as 120 sheets & perhaps 60 or 70 full or lacking but a very few of being complete. I am by degrees extending my rambles, into parts which I never visited before & am quite surprised to find what a very small area I examine in my former rounds. My excursions then to a few timber yards seldom venturing more than a few rods into the wood. Indeed it did not seem necessary to abroad when the objects for collection even along the roadside. My excursions seldom extended to a distance from the house of much more than a mile perhaps not so far in a direct line. I have spoken of the Penal There is a creek running from it which if my information is correct pitches down the Sanchone, (on which

I have also written to you, making a very respectable waterfall not quite equal to Niagara however. The vicinity of this has proved a rich locality & I staked the other day to go to the Pinal up the creek & found so many new things to occupy my time that the day was spent and I not half the distance made. I intend to try it again today if it has not rained tomorrow if the weather is promising I mean to make another essay.

I get no letters yet from the Fatherland. Why on earth it should require three months for an interchange of correspondence between this place & Boston I can ~~divine~~. From New York to Havanna is but five or six days I dont know but less. From Habana to St. Jago - six more & very much certainly & I believe twice a week the mail comes to the Catalina. It was just so before & as I cant help it I suppose I must bear the delay patiently.

The most exquisite pleasure I have nowadays is killing fleas — when I can catch them. Oh aint it the height of felicity to have in possession the lifeless carcass of your enemy. Time was when I did'nt care for a flea-bite But that time isn't now & these fleas we have here are fierce fleas. I have been pretty well acquainted with the critters now for more than twenty years & till now I have always been content to give them breakfast dinner or supper if they would take it quietly & not gallop all over the most sensitive parts of my corporosity. The fact is these fleas are no locomotives. They are no tomtits. They dont go prospecting. Wherever they alight there they go & it's gouge gouge gouge till they are forcibly ejected from that pasture when they take incontinently to another & gouge gouge away. And such venemous scamps & very numerous ones a great host such as I never yet from any flea invoked. Sometimes I think I am growing thin-skinned in more senses than one. But then I should feel their titillation. May-be they dont titillate as I have intimated above. There are four miserable curs at the house which constitute the "creaders" of the race & I never go there for my meals without bringing away some of the unwelcome brutes. Oh my suffering is intolerable!!

There is a Stenorhynchus growing abundantly here which looks to me just like S. orchioides. But two circumstances incline me to think it differs from one of which I remember & one I dont. The book makes the scape pubescent That I do not remember. The present plant has'nt a hair on it. The roots of this, you see, the surface, it can be pulled up easily. I remember breaking a fine knife digging up the very deep roots of S. orchioides. If it isn't S. orchioides it is in fine luck. It is a very handsome plant. Will you examine your specimens & give me your opinion.

17th I went yesterday from the waterfall to the Pinal up the creek not anything myself for it however. I am getting quite reconciled to learn the word "lay of the land" as woodsmen say. I extend my excursions to a greater distance from the landmarks. I found some new ferns of which I got complete sets of specimens. I secured the first fertile frond of a cyrtochaena argentea. It is a very fine one & will go to Dr. Eaton's herbarium for he must have it. I found something which I cant make out unless it's a queer composite. I collected it for a Santana & studied it a little way. A 4-lobed involucre loosely inclosing a flower & a rudiment. The flower looks much like one of Helianthus but the corolla is about equally bilabiate. It appears to stamens seen. The ripe achenium is broadly obovate — ovoid crest

Feby 19 Yesterday I went away across Escarpment Creek & got into some Palmistos. At length I struck a little gully & spent the middle of the day in it among mosses & Hepaticæ when I made a good harvest, (Oh I want that big box bad) One need the middle of a dry clear day to discover these things in such dark woods. I added one more fern at least to my list but it was badly eaten by some animal or insect & the specimens are not handsome I took more one I don't [illegible] Perhaps I may [illegible] better hereafter another beautiful little Stereocaulon was eaten in a similar manner. In general these plants do not seem to be injured much by insects

I shall get specimens of these stereorhizinas as I will be passing. I want to have your opinion. Do these thick-rooted orchids continue to send up scapes from year to year [illegible] sending a plant across a continuance of it. I shall think so but I am not sure. A great number of roots as thick as a goose quill or thicker radiate in all directions from the base of the stalk

I had just written the above when your letter of Jan 22 (824) was brought to me. I am glad the "ice is broke" & I hope now the letters will begin to come on regularly. Your advice as to collecting this or that thing will generally come too late — so on the whole I had better trust to my [illegible] & guess work as to the propriety of saving or neglecting. The worst that can result from it is the loss of time which might be better employed if they are worthless for distribution they can be [illegible] for exchanges & will probably benefit you in my hands. I don't want any thing distributed which would not by the owner be considered valuable as a gift — & such doubtless are many of the weeds & weed like plants. I shall probably in little leisure moments save some such things. I may want to amuse myself some winter evenings picking them to pieces. In fact I feel at

times as if I was growing stupid almost old enough to just ramble in— But then I don't know what such a locomotive as I have been could do in one place. It's pleasant at all events to return now & then to a land of civilization & newspapers & I think I shall ask of you the privilege (whether or not circumstances allow me to take advantage of it) of having my eyrie in your house summer or winter as luck may have it such plants as I may collect here. And to that end I want a set saved for me or if not for me save enough in your own set to afford me a little matter to waste. I mean too to have saved in like manner a set of the cryptos to look at after my return for it seems that I am not likely in any other way to find out what I have been doing in the world for after I am dead I suppose it will do me precious little good for posterity to know that I have collected two or three hundred new species of mushrooms & such like trash.

I don't know when I shall be on the coast to work for Harvey. I am afraid not this winter. But it would be hardly prudent to stay there long in summer. Then there is too much in the mountains to collect for one man to make clean work of the algæ too. I believe I always collect on paper, nearly or quite white except Zamaniæ & such like great things. I should suppose sized paper (for I suppose he means such when he says algæ stick to it) if a little tinged with blue would answer equally well. I find now & then on bromus culms & trees, what I take to be algæ & put them under as such. They may be of some interest. I see some also in the rivulets to which I shall give heed as soon as my hurry with the ferns is a little over.

I have two nice large oranges lying before me. I wish you & Mrs G. had them.

Feby 20th I have just studied out a plan which I hope may be successful in securing me more specimens if not enough of Acrostichum crinitum. I'll try to hire the Indians who are making the war-

be hunting to collect them for me.

You may recollect that I brought home some fruits with a red like Mirabilis but larger in a large inflated calyx. It is, however, if I may form an opinion from the fruit alone. The leaves just show a tendency to be peltate. A Sonora is given by Spinach but it can hardly be that as the leaves can't be strictly called peltate

I find growing abundantly here what I take to be Spilanthes urens, but the disk flowers have awns & achenia which they should not have according to Endlicher, How is it?

I have enclosed a scrap of that yellow plant I mentioned above & a small specimen of a Senecio? growing rather weedlike in the fields on rocky hills. There is also a little specimen for Dr Torrey & some ferns for Eaton I've added him. Any — is it right?

Give my best wishes to Mrs G. I hope she is better. Mrs L. has been some days absent in Lowell & so might have sent good word to send I remain

Dear

Yours sincerely

Chas Wright

Prof A. Gray
Cambridge Mass

Monte Verde July 26th 1859

Dear Dr

I despatched a letter only two or three days ago but as I find it convenient to fill up such little scraps of time as occur now & then when I have nothing special to do I begin another now. It is away before daylight in the morning. I sometimes turn out early in this way when I am useful or when I have any interesting reading or important work on hand but this morning I was aroused by a cause less agreeable. It would appear that I took an unwelcome fellow with me - one of those infernal fleas. If I can't get rid of him as the Scotchman did the dog by giving him a bad name I must search out all the abstruse facts of the calculus to exterminate them. I suppose we will know some day what in the economy of creation these pests were made to subserve

Day before yesterday as I returned from the Pinal I bethought me of a fern which I remember getting by the lucky shot upon the spur of Pinal. It is a very tall slender species? I suppose, with a stipe hardly thicker than a goose quill. It was just at night & I saw only a few in fruit on the mountain yesterday I made a special visit to get enough of it. The specimens are not handsome ones - having a little old mouldy brown. It is the best I can do now. I know no other locality. In the very middle of the road I found a single specimen of a new Pteris. I have walked over it a dozen times or more. I searched carefully but could find no more. I have in like manner a single specimen of an Equisetum but I don't remember where I obtained it.

If in Fiji by "Indonesia" is to be included the family expressed— "a good length of a Tree Fern & a Palm" If you have said a Tree Fern & a good length of a Palm it would have seemed more rational & practicable. It would be easy to send the said length of Tree Fern even one of the small prickly Palms, which are plenty & annoying enough to be in these woods. In fact you have or had some seations of the latter among those I sent before. I suppose you dont want me to try to send you one that is "a fine brown Norwegian Fellow" would be "tall enough to be the mast of some huge Admiral" (Milton, ahem!) I will see what I can do.

I would be very glad to have that book on the nettle but how to get it here is the question. Brazier told me that Cooke intends a kind of inquisitorial trial to discover if there be any thing heretical in them & that it is a matter of some doubt when you will get them over. I think it can hardly be so bad as he represents it. If you can find some clever captain & get so far into his good graces as to persuade him to smuggle me a copy. I think I could pleasantly perhaps profitably spend leisure hours which will begin to be plenty by & by in the hot season in studying the Urticaceæ which are very abundant & close at hand at all times.

How have you? Yes, back with the question about that little 4-flower compd. which you thought to be name wrong? Will you not ask Eaton to send me a list of the ferns I got before with reference to Yes, back's list when they are the same or synonymous? Did you consider the strict meaning of your word "gather. Mine is heaps." I suppose you meant very little heaps if compared with a heap of manure. Any how I must account for your zeal in behalf of Sullivant unless it be to counteract my lukewarmness. I think if you had written a— if you had been living [illegible] in your ears— making "Imperial melody you would be satisfied to get away with a "monticulibbo" of a microscopic stratum. Mr Gibbs likes insects the order of being rather "small potatoes" they don't hurt much if they do make any thing but pleasant music. Hip! hip! hurraw!! Thanks to Mars or rather to Minerva I have gained a victory I have conquered my enemy I have killed the two fleas that tormented me during this night.

Night. I have been among the phenogams to day not neglecting the cryptogams however. But as it was rather a dark day I paid to these less attention. I found two novelties one a Myrica a good stout bush (pistillate only) and an Echinacea or something of that sort—a small tree. I cant examine by candle-light with any satisfaction. I got something for Curtis, Sullivant, Buckman & Pa. coming home. I took the trunks of two tree Compositæ of which you can take a part if you like. One is a Senecio & the other 2 cannot well make out. If not dear, they get to be pretty tall bushes with a firm woody trunk 2-3 inches thick.

I wish I could hear from Hookes as to what he wants. This packing in logs of wood on ones back isn't the most agreeable kind of amusement & unless I have a prospect of good pay I am going to quit it. In fact I feel that I am growing old about in spots, here & there. At times I have that same trouble in the throat of which I used to complain. My leg too gives me trouble & uneasiness. I am also annoyed with "prolapsus ani" or something of the sort aggravated I imagine by squatting about gathering things from the ground. I dont go up a tree so readily as I used to do. I look up it a good many times to see if there are really flowers on it & I then study whether they are worth going after.

I saw at the Falls one what I take to be Podocarpus— a small specimen without fruit. At the base of these stiff

their are pines on each of them so close that they appear as if they might have sliv off — but there is not one above until you go up the creek a mile or thereabouts to the Penal — so far as I know

I found a specimen of ore last Sunday which I believe I wrote in my last that I had collected with a view of ~~[illegible]~~ found. The blende ore are big & snap shaped smooth & shining crystals & brittle. The pot lead ore again is passed & shivered & don't know how it is though I have been continually on the lookout for this & two or three days the same stripe I now & then find them with shivered pot lead but do not find any in the least state for collection ~~[illegible]~~

2nd Officer Schnee, relieving Lt Comyns, I think it will hardly be either of the simple steps necessary to obtain

a Detail

as I see no way around these preliminary matters I might as well slip them in here. If the other boys of Cuban Fund, I have any less & pains, except by Spring & the small at that went to some Cuban cause. I do not think, this might now? Bring in the money &c. that I am so fit for it? I am sorry I cannot help the wrong these many matters. but you are now & then wrong me to [illegible] by [illegible] you ought to have before you. The prospect of clear, & tolerably large sale. It seems as if the collected specimens ought to be ready for sale by this time. As the distribution, the Fund & the Appl. Exp is paid for out of the appropriation I might reasonably expect the proceeds of the sale of the Cuban Fund to be coming in by this time. As to the moneys & liens, I do not see it was [illegible] than Sullivan's Scotchman would any claim any part of the appropriation for their several deposits in them. So I thought it was more than generous to let them take their pick of the Cuban matter & give me in their own good time & way the proceeds of the remainder. Tucker-man has more than once made me an offer of

money but I must do in such a manner that it appears just as meant for any "how is a little money but I do it rather than you should be in it" I may misjudge him, I hope so, it may be that he thinks it would be kept more than I have hinted an offer. In view of the little information that seems to be growing upon me it appears proper that I begin to prepare for a rainy day. I have a home in which I can live off my own grain and I think it would be something better to have it hanging out to dry than to be laying up something against a ~~rainy day~~ may spend it as unprofitably as such a miserable old back country store. As to the collection from me making, I'll comply as well as I can with your wishes supposing that you have a regard to my interest in the matter, perhaps you will have a clear look on it as in the last I shall have anything to do respecting it. I have not been in the intention to speaking in this business. I'll be as liberal as any poor man ought to be. But I can see no good reason why the specimens should lie in the hands of Sullivan & Co for a year or two or a half dozen years before any sale can be made of them. You have commonly sold the pipe-rings at $30. per hundred. From letters of Parker's mine these rings might be sold at a lower rate. The last may [illegible] up immediately in this little trouble though it is a serious business to get through with. I wrote them to leave it to the discretion of these gentlemen to sell them they have never or may have in hand as much money as they may be quitable— I have thought to me to add that perhaps Parker's [illegible] upon the [illegible] Rings' labor ought to be [illegible] yet if the [illegible] all right. All I want is to know the true state of the case. You may infer from the above that I have got many upon me and the infirmities common to old [illegible] age— forgetfulness. Prejudice!

"Jew is good, upon coming to the house, tell the negro woman to go to the "Jew's" to Mrs. Who returned this evening

after twenty days absence, & to get a dreaming one of the common accompaniments of the return of the Master after a long visit elsewhere

I doubt if there is any way of getting North from here without going down to the other side of the island & thence proceeding South. We are on the very edge of the wilderness & beyond the limits of the plantation the wood is very thick—I tell you!! The most of my hunting is along timber roads & bee-hunters' trails. When in a good locality with plenty of time before me I poke about in the wood creeks up or down gullies peer up trees & down about their roots &c &c. Thus the day wears away & I seldom get a mile away from home or not much more. By & by as novelties become less plentiful I shall go to greater distances—if I can get through the thickets & I guess I shall try

28th Mr D. is going to send to Saltwater this morning & as I have pitched together enough to make a letter respectable for the amount of wood contained therein, I will send it though you will probably get it at the same time as the one written & despatched some a few days ago. I enclose a couple of seeds perhaps the same interesting that I have at any rate the most convenient & a "pie" for my sister which I will thank you to forward & I will likely owe them the same trick some day

Yours truly

Charles Wright

24 Feb 189

[illegible] of the P.S.

C. M.

P.S. 2nd I had nearly forgotten to say that my Indian returns to the U.S. Army will be a great package—60 or 70 specs.—a Lewisticum crinitum but not the superior specimen among them. You may judge of its rarity from this—it measures 2 inches & 9 lines

[illegible]

[illegible] this [illegible] exhausted. He will be hunted for days for it but could find none C. M.

[illegible]

[illegible] within the last 2 days & I have filled up [illegible] to the number required—& in several cases. I must now have as many as 160 Species I think. This afternoon I am [illegible] I saw yesterday. I take a man with me to cut the trees

I am beginning to think it is almost time I was up in camp. I shall go [illegible]

[illegible] Tahuna [illegible] is as
I can conveniently [illegible] the
arrangement [illegible]
[illegible] I [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] them
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I
think [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Sophia [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]

I have [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] up [illegible] my [illegible]
[illegible] some [illegible] the most
obstinate fellows

I have been & got the fruits
one is Sapotacea the other
Sapindaceæ. I [illegible] what
I suppose you call "[illegible]"
fruits about as large [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I am sure

I am doing [illegible] phanerogams. I [illegible]
some other route & [illegible]
[illegible] a.m.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

P.S. 10th
Great luck this morning I have [illegible] four [illegible]
a heavy shower yesterday afternoon must have [illegible]
indoors; thus I account for their abundance & tameness. By some
carelessness they have poisoned a
moiety of their dogs & Cat-pas-
sure is [illegible] in area. My
letter didn't go on the [illegible] I
expected which [illegible]

Mt Vernon Nov 24 /61

Dear Jo

I am sure you
[illegible] from me
[illegible] blame
[illegible] but you can well
imagine how [illegible] the
loss of prompt & regular inter-
course with friends and
kindred. When I was here before
I thought my letters were few
& far between but that was
a happy time compared with
this. I thought you would hate
me when you sent the paper but
I knew if it arrived by Mr
L. who was in Cuba at the time
he brought me the [illegible] for which
I am much obliged. I have at last
made one which answers my pur-
pose pretty well by sawing open
a comforter & the which I
had. The one you sent is very good,

Mrs Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

I and fine are getting scarce though I have found some since I wrote last — an Aconitum [illegible] of which I found one [illegible] little grass. I have seen it but in limited [illegible] [illegible] may mean something more of it. Per contra trees & bushes are beginning to blossom. I found yesterday some flowers of a Bignoniacea or Gesneria on the ground but failed to see the tree from which they came. I went this morning armed & equipped for cutting out from the tree nearly inaccessible on the very edge of the La Porta Mandolins. The foliage is yet very young & I returned without. It is quite doubtful if I get it at all unless I meet with a tree more accessible another Bignon. has fooled me [illegible] in the same [illegible] I got an Indian to help me I have not been much in the woods for a week past unless it be along road. About a week ago I stepped into a hole in the rocks over back my shin — or I have been taking or at least to give it a chance to repair damages I have kept pretty much out of the brush. I have paid considerable attention to drying &c.

I shall go to Andrea in a couple of days & will inquire about the prospect of sending to Boston. I want to see what the state of vegetation is in the low lands. I want Fox to inquire for a good place to go seaweeding.

Yours ever

[illegible]

Monte Verde Ap. 10th 1859

Dear Sy.

Somebody has made the remark that woman can bear much abuse but will not endure neglect. In this respect I begin to feel womanish. I was half setting out a day or two ago for the purpose of keeping to myself the letter I wrote you again or not — but it is a miserable thing to be able in this way to complain of being neglected by those who should remember us. In the single letter which has come me from you upon acknowledge you ought to have written more frequently & to write letters in future. I don't call writing me one letter in almost five months very well. I suppose however you must have written more than that — that the letters are on their way here. What makes the matter worse I have received as yet none from home. It is passing strange. It has not so before.

Two weeks ago or more I received a short letter from Mr Norman inclosing some specimens sent as a kind guide to help me in looking for birds, & since that time I have done little but look for him. I believe too that I have done a good business in that family laying in a large addition to the species as well as, in most cases, an abundance of specimens. It has been uncommonly dry & unfavorable for the collection of moss & ferns. Changes in flowers are yet scarce & I have been rather lazing about. It was decided before the time of going to some other locality but have been detaining my departure hoping every day would bring me letters from home. It is now two or three

be bottled in this way. It is terribly tedious & you will have to turn over it every day or I shall pack up my duds & be right upon you before you think of it.

I have written to Hildreth & intend to be stupified when a vessel is about to sail for Italy things are in a good train & can be packed up at short notice. I shall go to Mont Cenis & sink the flask there to cool in the way when the negociation arrives. I shall probably avail myself of the first opportunity of sending in a box I have already accumulated.

I have no doubt I shall be interested in Italy. Indeed I trust me that there is very well in it so far as it is likely to benefit me in the selection of interesting things in the region, & such is not of no value. I have long since given over seeing sights, of course. I dont mean to renounce such labor without a clear prospect of being benefited by it. I did yesterday cut down half of a large Fenbenaceen, declaring the other half to present a Permian initially or something as it. I may get the wood at any future time if it is wanted.

I am sorry Count, make this letter so interesting as the first appears to have been. You must take it for what it is worth. I don't if I shall write again soon unless something turns up of greater interest than now appears probable.

Kind regards to all.

Sincerely Yours,

Charles Wright.

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge Mass

P.S. Please forward the enclosed to Buckman

N. B. I expect to leave Florence about the 1st Sept. "Statistica Stat. Centralina de Guatemala" — Dalla Torre

Monte Video
Apl. 21. 1859

Dear H.

Just receive Sullivants letter. You ought not to have detained it knowing how I felt about his neglect in answering letters. I was trying to repay by sending my collection, but have given up the matter may be not have I enfeeble among them.

I wish I was at home & have but little to add to my letter in other times. I am getting sick of Montevideo &

I am so from Nurses [illegible]
in hopes of [illegible] Thursday
[illegible] I will [illegible]
him when I want to [illegible]
to some other [illegible]
I long to [illegible] with
the Curtain rods. May I [illegible]
hear from [illegible]
on my [illegible] direct to
Worcester [illegible] Dr. Woodward
may receive on the [illegible]
Whether I am to be [illegible] upon
as the incarnation of pestilence
& treason or what is the cause
that I [illegible] I
am utterly at a loss to guess
but they are opened & destroyed
or thrown aside [illegible] of no value
I am bound to [illegible] I am

[illegible] it [illegible] on the
[illegible]

I am also [illegible] to make
[illegible] for the leaves & fruit
[illegible] of which I got
the [illegible] some [illegible]
[illegible] some weeks ago, I have
seen but one tree
over the edge [illegible] the [illegible] flow,
perpendicular [illegible] 200 feet
or high, I could not [illegible]
the tree if I can avoid it but
I am [illegible] to me [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible]
the Paradoxus & [illegible] for
specimens

Yours truly
Sarah Wright

Honolulu Aug. 24th 1871

I am always happy to learn of your welfare, but I am sorry to hear of your ill health. I have written to you frequently of late always in a desponding mood. I have known it but has been my correspondence unless it is filibusterism. I wish it was otherwise. You must have made some of my letters as I certainly gave you directions how to write. However you will not be far wrong if you direct to Santa (or Sta for short) Catalina de Guadalupe. If you want to insure certainty write all next to the letter being open you may send under cover to M. F. Lecaille, or Messrs Starkey & Co. Lima, and through Bicknell Gilman come promptly. They are clever fellows.

I think I know a few of that Rio gala but I may not be able to find it again. I shall look out sharp for all kinds.

I call this little Hymenophyllaceae things I believe I have the term enough for full definition. Some of the ferns are yet dragging along - one specimen at a time but I have a goodly number with the complement of 40 specimens. Ophioglossum palmatum is indeed planta rarissima but I think I shall be able to supply the demand. At least I hope so. I have 2 specimens I am up to its habits now & know when to look for it. It has been very lately. I have come on little among the ferns but I have been deep into the lichens. I have lately collected two Begoniaceae plants which are attracting notice in the [illegible]

day wood of Tanæcium Sp. Is that queer enough for you? The little flowers in[illegible] like Lantana I fear you will get no more of. I took all I saw at the time & I have not found it since though I have been on the look out for it whenever I have been in that locality. When you have all the specimens before you, you may be able to do better with it

The paper is in Cuba. I have not needed it yet. I have the class I put it quite right (

To Sim on the 3. Pray if you can not come yourself I will meet her in Cuba & escort her hen when she will be at home as I am. She shall have as many bananas as she wants & any other fruit to which she takes

I got Wilson's Enumeration of the forms of ferns, & the 3 parts of Japan ferns & Exp. Exp. things came with your letter. I am very glad to get any thing of this sort. I have a true natural curiosity to know what I am doing in the work. If among the pebbles I pick up here & there, any gold or diamonds are [illegible] I am grateful to be informed of the fact. I have most of my plants snugly packed up fully will distribute into their natural families & carry for ship mat when a bird's eye[illegible] turns up. I have been rather hoping back & waiting for letters — perhaps a little sulky — I don't know as it is worth while to send it — because I got none letters. However I think I will take them in a few days to Saturday — & if there is no immediate prospect of a Boston ship I will send them to New York

Pipes to shipping Mr. G. here. I don't know as I ever told you that Mr. L. once had a Mr. Greenwood's lady — Boston people — several months with him & he always speaks of that time in the term most expressive of his gratification & enjoyment derived from their society

It seems that I brought home materials with which Brit. & Cont. have made quite a flourish. If I have done as well in the other departments of Cryptogamy I shall get a name as a collector at any rate. I only regret that I could not visit localities offering in Pleurogram new novelty. But such localities now-a-days are hard to find in the course of a sea-voyage & not any will ever again have such chances as Banks & Solander & those other old voyagers enjoyed

I hope you got the money to pay Berkley before Uncle Sam stopped payment. I thought such special appropriations as the one coming to us were exempt from application to any thing else. But I suppose at Washington nothing yellow is sacred from the light-fingered gentry that prowl about there

Is Crosstack publishing anything as he goes along & if so, what is the chance to get the sheets as they are issued. If I can bring any thing in fortune I like to see it in print as I go along. Old postmasters couldn't I pay out for collecting & not to me any pay?

25th This is the finest real rainy drizzly foggy day we have had in a long time. It will start the crypts again. It is almost time for trees in general to begin to blossom.

I shall calculate on Mrs. Gray coming on soon just as Mr. L. did on me & then of course when she is tired of Monte Verde you will come on & help[illegible] while & take her home

My best wishes for her restoration to health

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

stout sole's clinch—(at least
me in them

May 2

containing

Thursday

Thursday

Thursday

polygamy

leaves, with a sharp eager
point. It went up into my
[illegible] I have seen Shimmering
[illegible] fill with sagebrush, simply flowers
[illegible] Think I got it for
[illegible] al. [illegible] is dragging me past
[illegible] me and Isabel, carrying sheets
[illegible] to be hung, [illegible] the
[illegible] the [illegible] in the
[illegible]

[illegible] Dear Mrs Gray comes over
[illegible] as to send me for Mr. L
[illegible] some treatise on her culture
[illegible] If you can get a French one
[illegible] it will be well- [illegible]
[illegible] will do [illegible] of your will
[illegible] some and a few [illegible] makes
[illegible] awls—strings [illegible]
[illegible] on some [illegible] rocks
[illegible] Here is a [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

Verbesina pygmaea

I have received your letter in which you ask my opinion upon a specimen of Verbesina which you send. I am sorry that the achenium is not clearly shown. But it may have a thick margin. I can not tell. It does not agree with the character of Verbesina & Actinomeris. There may be something about them "stigmatic lines" that I have not been able to see. However as well as my imperfect knowledge of your specimen goes it certainly does not much like Verbesina. Please point out the points in which it differs from Verbesina. If you send the specimen, I will try & have enough to analyze all the parts of. But not in the seeds.

Yours

A. Gray

I would like to have a list
of the names of my former slaves
that are now living as near as I can get
and will send them to you if it will suit
how much trouble it will be to you to make
out a list

Monterey May 14th 1849

Yesterday came a letter from you had Oct 24
"Here again" says Dr that diabolic has been ravaging my
letters." But a few lines down you acknowledge the re-
ceipt of mine date Feb 26. which with other circumstan-
ces corroborating satisfies me that the date was a "lapsus
pennæ" for Apr. 24. But how came you by the Dr's
work in the shape of yours of Feb 21st 21st no lapsus pennæ
this last is so (it is the 4th I have got up to this date) that
there is little in it which me to be noted. Since I got
Dr Wheaton's letter I am in a very good humor. but to tell
the truth a good deal of my grumbling — well I can't
think of the French word by which I wished to express it —
but yes! will do, I believe I have done my part
with the moss, & lepraties if they don't bring me some
credit & money too. I shall be sadly disappointed
if you ask when I got the name (magnolia grandiflora) I
you simpleton when other folks get their names. I can't
find any thing like it in Bullock (neither in authority for
any thing positive or to negative!?) how as the leaves were
full of little lines I stuck down the name just to call it
something. I believe however that is not a peculiarity
of this species.

A word as to the address of letters. When I was last before
you I have reason to believe all my letters. Several were
directed to Salvatierra (this is the old name of the place it is
generally used all over this part of the country. It is not
however the legal name which is Santa Catalina de
Ogiamiana or S. C. de Tepaco) I see it in both
& the Post Office incumbents may think that they have
done their duty by duly forwarding such [illegible] are

are to it the legal name, the florist can may have no connection, people in consigning to Chicago such as are addressed to its popular name. I have thought this might be the reason of the failure of my letters. Perhaps they have been opened & mislaid in the press—they secretary then he probably intrusts a little fire for safe keeping. At any rate I hope they will come more regularly in future.

When you come on here in the fall for Mrs Gray we will strike off north into that part of "that I have only just peeped into" till you carry out paccaud— But how are you going to dry plants then when you can not even get a bit of sunshine bigger than a dollar? Everything is saturated with water. The savanna region is more accessible & I am going to seek information as to the best locality at which to settle down—temporarily. I have no idea I shall remain here so long but in fact I don't know how to get away. I am finding new things every day & now the arborean vegetation is coming in to season. I found several new things today—a pomphia, an Echite & some queer thing that I can't make out. It has some of the characters of Forsteronia as but the connective of the anthers stick out as in Hancornia &c but with a sharp point. Cal. imbricate 5-leaved. Cor. convolute. Stam. numerous. Ovary 2-celled with three ovules hanging from the top of the dissepiment a tapering simple style small and revolute cuneate leaves* — Gen. I found a beetle bringing to mind old Texas associations. Yesterday I found a new fern—I can't in specimen but it is near at hand & I hope to get more. I have turned schoolmaster too & volunteered to teach Millie English giving her lessons at night & as I have opportunity & I don't like to quit just after starting. Till within a few weeks I was hanging on & waiting for letters — and for a vessel bound for Boston by which to send my collections. I am informed that there

* Ill.; cuneate leaves

is no probability of having this season a chance of sailing direct to Boston—so I intend to embrace the first opportunity of dispatching my things via New York. A vessel is expected to sail the last of the month—next week I propose to take what I have already done to Saltadero, tie them up snugly, direct them plainly and give them in charge to Messrs Brooks & Co. Then I shall feel a little more at liberty to branch off if I see any prospect of doing better by it.

You have a way peculiarly your own of dictating to me here—I shall shew my fine—stick to the wood-honey! & let the books alone. You guess I'll have to stir up the nettles after I get home!! What'll be the use after they are all stirred up named & distributed. Well I guess I'll get satisfaction in some way "when I get home"

No less true than your remark that "Mr Lesquereux do not grow on every bush" is it that Monte Verdes are not found at every squirrel's-jump. Here I am within two or three minutes walk of the virgin forest in every direction & do not have to go for miles over old fields overgrown with grass & domesticated weeds & bushes before I can reach good botanizing ground. So long as I am finding new things every day within a mile it would seem almost like running away from good luck to leave it—it is at any rate abandoning a certainty for an uncertainty. So I believe I will be in no hurry—just now at least. The mass of the fern harvest is gathered—but there is a good gleaning to be done yet. There are some of which I almost despair of ever finding fertile fronds. Shall I get them any how

I have accumulated about [illegible]

of wood of various kinds, some quite old, but strange to
me not easily increase the list to 100. I will like to see
Hooker in this way if he says the same. Most of these I
have cut with my own eye & my own shears you are all
I have seen cut. I have carefully numbered them &
specimens to correspond (the first two or three numbers
would have been lost by some means but that will not
lessen the value of the others) & will get you them
at present. You, as you dissect out the specimens, can
take note of such things as you want like those at
any rate shall be sent to you

I believe I should tell you that not finding Lindley's Dauvi-
glossum lemnii I was induced to suspect its identity with my
D. lamperphyllum. If so it is so badly described that I could not
recognise it. And in this connection I send you a scrap of Pleuro-
thallis ruberrima that you may judge whether or not I was
right in saying I was afraid he had been careless in the description
I send also what I take to be a second species of Lycaste. I
have got only two specimens, therefore send only a small scrap
of a raceme with a leaf. The racemes are 3-4 inches long. I have seen
but one small tree with perhaps a dozen racemes, still, for the
most part, in the bud.

I have distributed into their natural orders all but the
plants last collected so that you will find every thing (according
to the best judgment I could form) in its proper order & your
labor in distribution will be so much lightened. There are
some specimens of Cyrtochilum that I can not find & I suspect they
have by some carelessness got away among some of the lower orders
so look out for them.

I am rather sorry that you take such a fancy to personal names
as Weightia an intolerable sort of monosticity especially in
a genus of a single species where you are not, as in cases of
genera, bound to run for name. I hope to the name of the new plant you
append some account of the rather strange locality in which it was found

Mr. L will not ask for any nick nacks or Boston notions, but I will. He is quite ignorant of the temperature the weather as well as of the stars the lingering habits of his misspent life. If you please, therefore, send him one or better two good thermometers (his was broken a few days ago) in an atlas of the heavens, having them to my account & prepaying if possible all expenses.

A word more about those specimens of wood. You know I wrote to Sir William just before I left. It is possible that he has answered my letter writing to me as he did before through the British Consul at Cuba. It was a long time before I knew of the fact & then I passed it through Brooks & Co each (or one of them) has the letter. They have a branch of their house here & Santos [illegible] de Iguanta ~~[illegible]~~ agent & most likely would have sent me the letter if they had it. It may be too that he has written & that the letter has shared the fate of so many others. You could easily ascertain Sir Williams wishes. I am by no means anxious for shipping logs & packing them on my back & still less do I want to appear so. But I am willing to do a fair share of labor in promoting the cause of science in any of its branches.

I am enjoying at present very good health. In fact I suppose the little ailments of which I speak, to any one else, almost, but me, who have all my life enjoyed such general good health, would be but little more than a flea-bite. I don't mean Monte Verde fleas. I mean old-time ones, whose tickling was their worst annoyance. Ha! I've just caught one & smashed up his biting machinery.

In looking over your letters it seems you must have written to me about the beginning of Feby — a long letter you say. That I have not got. You directed it to Monte Verde — that accounts for its failure. Monte Verde is nothing more than a coffee estate &

the Post-Office employees would not know much better than a Zaplander where to send it.

If I had a kindred spirit for a companion nothing would please me better than to take an Indian or two and some negroes & strike into the wood in a north or other direction & penetrate to any reasonable distance. I have thought too of a way by which the plants might be saved. Each days collection could be sent back by an Indian the next day & with some one at home to take care of them a good business might be done. It is an arduous undertaking however for a single man with a very limited knowledge of the tongue of his servants & companions & with but little confidence in their trustworthiness. Will try it however when you come on.

I have found a little orchid which is certainly belongs to no genus in Endlicher. In this one instance I have trespassed on Lindleys province so far as to make a genus! It is very inconspicuous & probably scarce. All my specimens have been gathered from two Guava bushes & from time to time in small parcels as they came in flower. Formerly I found on a coffee bush what I believe to be the same plant. It was sent to Kew among the dried plants which perished by the way & lately I found on some other tree a single specimen. I have called it Serotella aphylla from the rather remarkable serotine spur & because it has not the semblance of leaves. You will find it scattered along in little parcels among the orchidaceæ. I have given what I believe to be a good description from the fresh specimens. It might be called megalocarpa if the first part of the compound could properly be applied to any thing so small, for the full grown fruit is larger than all the rest of the plant put together. If it should prove to be new my name & description ought to stand as being probably as good as any that can be made from the dried specimens — probably better — if not no harm done. I intended to send to Lindley specimens but kept putting it off so that now they will all go together. Well I have about exhausted my stock of talky talky & filled my 3d half sheet so adios

Yours ever

Charles Wright

14 March 1859

Bethersfield May 18th 1859

Prof Gray

Dear Sir

I have just recived a letter from my brother informing me that he has at last heard from home & the letter recived by him was superscribed as I wrote you a short time since shewing that being thus addresed our letters reach him whereas otherwise they do not

He writes me if I can take some of visiting Cuba and that if so it would be a good opportunity to send him a supply of clothing

If you should conclude to do so would you be so good as to give me a [redacted]

time by notice of your depar-
=ture that I may prepare a
few things for him.

I have to day received a
line from you inclosing one
from him and hereby receip-
=ro cate the favors by sending
one from him to you

Another favor I would
ask of you My brother wishes
me to send a barrel of Buck
wheat flour to Mr Lasell &
and I have forgotten his
first name — you refres
my memory and oblige

Yours Respectfully

John G Wright

Manatee May 21st 1878

My Dear Dr

I left my plants to Smith
Carl was to [illegible] came home having [illegible]
back – I [illegible], for cracks & no room. I ag-
[illegible] [illegible] Edgerton. Returning I made
quite a nice collection. I put up my packages in
two bags that [illegible] bought in the
[illegible] I had
tried in vain to get bags, but they were [illegible]
had contained salt sugar & smoked. They do well
suit me. I have all two bags at present except the
Cainanca as they call the little shipping bags
lining with sugar. I saw the captain of the
who promises to put my plants under the cabin
the door should be [illegible] large enough to allow them
admittance. If not the same arrangement will be
made with the other captain if practicable. This
is to keep the plants out of the way of the sailors
smoke from the engine. Mr Brooks partner thinks
they will be apt to [illegible] in the hold through heavy
thumping [illegible]

23d Yesterday I went a gunning into the pond
[illegible] I went out [illegible]
found two specimens of Eucrium which I stop
in my examination of them to point out another error
in Linn Key description. He makes the appendages of
the stamens acuminate the very antipodes of correct
ness. I join them as given on my former list. Tillandsia
One specimen has a 2 flowered scape. His comparison of
it to Tillandsia usneoides is any thing but a happy
one though it is very much like some of the small stem-
less rock species. Have you compared the Cal a pine with

those of the Southern states, should in the kindness or its difference?

If you have no delicacy in the matter I wish you would send in to Sir William Hooker that I am willing to collect to a certain extent (just as many or as few as he pleases) specimens of woods & other things for the Museum at Kew though not at all anxious to do so. If I know he has not answered my letter about the time I attempt for Cuba I will do so. You must do so by no means as you [illegible] as so many of my letters have failed to reach me he too may have written & his letter may have shared the fate of the others. I want to have to know his wishes as I would like him to know my feelings on the subject. I have thought that perhaps he was disappointed with the result of my first experiences in this kind of work & chose to pass by in silence my suggestions & offers of service. Nothing however could be fairer than the way in which the former arrangement was settled it being left entirely to him to give me what he pleased.

If you postpone the distribution & sale of the present collection till they are mine will it not be a good while before I get any pecuniary benefit from them?

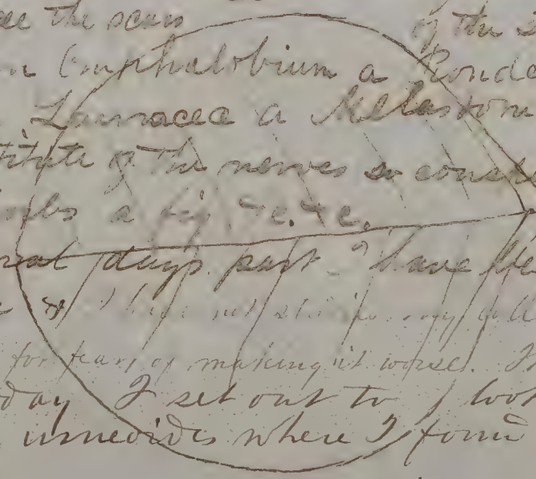
24th. You will find among Miconiaceæ flowers of a tree marked as Cecropia? This morning I started to get fruit & after blistering my hands without having a bit the axe handle I spoiled I had cut down a laurel. This afternoon I took a hoe & had better luck. I have now plenty of leaves & young fruit varying from the size of a bullet to nearly an inch in diameter. I have cut one in slices & shall enclose it. If it does [illegible] with a full grown leaf. This will do to go with Guisebachs specimens & you will get plenty with the next batch. The fruit looks as if it would be laccate. The ovules are surrounded by a white [illegible] I have some more trees marked 2 but the next fruit I can get is not an uncommon tree.

27th Yesterday Mr. Wagner invited me to cut down his trees. I was early on the ground. He had cut my hair & employed them but they did not work very furiously. The trees furnished me notwithstanding with a number & one nice thing. I mean to go again in the morning. To day I went to the Pinal & got some more specimens of Lunania (not many however) some fine specimens of an Ardisia & a Magnolia. Well if it isn't it comes mighty near it. The inner petals look very much like Lunnacea. The carpels (my specimens are only buds) are much like Magnoliaceæ. I have two species of Magnolia. Large trees of [illegible] with [illegible] flowers. Leaves [illegible] paper white with [illegible] veins. Petals white the inner smaller. Stamens not so many as is usual in Annonacea & very much shorter than the [illegible]

29th Yesterday again I got a capital collection at Mr Duvergers (La Perla) including a plenty of specimens (young fruit flowers & buds) of Magnolia rotundifolia — for it is a Magnolia I have no doubt. Annexed is the outline of the leaf with the petiole on which you see the scars of the stipules. I got also a new Hex an Euphorbium a Rondeletia a Psychotria two or three Lauraceæ a Melastomaceous tree with leaves entirely destitute of the nerves so conspicuous in the family some Euphorbs a fig &c. &c.

For several days past I have been troubled with an inflamed eye & I [illegible] my collection as thoroughly as I wished to do for fear of making it worse. It appears to be getting better

31st Today I set out to look for some more Cucurbitaceæ where I found that fruit but I got nothing I got a very fine Calliandra, a Hillia a Peperomia two



a Terminalia
Melastomacea a Myrtacea & other things which I have not
seen. My eye is nearly well. I shall go to Sta Catalina
de Guantanamo tomorrow & see what disposition has
been made of the plants. I'll send the fruit of that Malpighi-
aceæ next time.

Yours truly

Chas Wright

P.S. I wrote a note a while ago — an Amaranth for Dr Torrey
I wonder if he has just pocketed it & forgot to say thanks —

Sta Catalina de Guantanamo Cuba

The name of the vessel which carries my plants
is La Grange, Capt. Dearborn. The consignees are not
yet known you can have somebody on the look out. I'll send
the bill of lading when I get it & probably a letter by the
brig

Monte Verde June 9th 1859

Dear Dr.

A few weeks last [illegible] I sent you a long & little list of flowers each over which I had puzzled a good deal & which I had small [illegible] considerable misgivings. Yesterday I found another species & I shall not probably turn over a stone [illegible] any species I may [illegible] with. I must acknowledge that I was rather stupid for [illegible] away the Pleuraspis plants. [illegible] Fillundsia which I remember vaguely [illegible] the way in the distribution. I found in flower also flowers new to me that I could not yet [illegible] my [illegible] When [illegible] La Perla & which I fear will not be found till it [illegible] I climbed some trees but was unsuccessful in finding any that I did not expect him like I was in quest of. I found a scandent Begonia with the habit & [illegible] but with the flowers very much like [illegible] except that the [illegible] longer. I can't fix it on any [illegible] at least among Phaseoli where it would seem to belong. I have to send only a short [illegible] Pinal where the timber has been felled & where is now only scattering trees on that dreadful hill cutting [illegible] that is so destructive to my [illegible] where it can get it. I found also a few more specimens of Epi[illegible] a [illegible] of which I believe I have now [illegible] enough for distribution. [illegible] some of the specimens bear rather small & [illegible] flowers however with a good [illegible] and not quite so [illegible] I shall [illegible] known [illegible] me. [illegible] plenty for another [illegible] of which I write no long age. I had found some specimens but not enough near by. I [illegible] away in which I obtained plenty [illegible] with

two fertile fronds on each sterile one

June 16th. Last night returned and met with a few days ride to the R. R. A good deal of rain and very muddy roads. Mr. L. is a hard rider, he kept me in the saddle more than was pleasant. I did not collect largely lest by my frequent stopping I should appear too selfish. I got three sp. of Pteris all perhaps different from the one or common at home. I pleased by some interesting things however after all I am willing to get them on my return but we came back by a different route. I shall have to make a special trip for them. As to my travels & adventures I think so good as that, whether for living or working but as this was rather an exploring tour it is not a fair test. I became acquainted with the planters & received kind invitations to visit & examine their resources which invitations I shall accept at some time when Dr Flora will give me a respite

On the 20th Mr L. starts for Cuba to sail for France about the 30th & the first boy. He has been talking about it for some time but I did not think it would ever come. It will make no difference with me as I am his company & he need. He takes his daughter & little boy & will be absent a year at least probably more

I found on my return a letter from home containing the copy of a Document about me there from Washington the subject of which is I may on the 16th of Dec. next after two years examination they have found that on leaving her I was overpaid to the amount of $17.41. I have written to Capt. R. on the subject asking that the matter may rest till my return when as I have said that I would ask you to pay it if it is likely to give him any trouble. I suppose my expenses necessary will reply or quite offset it if not turn the scale in my favor

June 17 Today I went to the Pacallona & got some new things — a Cassia & Inga in some bottle but it differs from the character in Ind. — a Sacconia & an Erythalis with Dietrich as usual ignores. I got again also flowers of a tree with the young leaves covered with dusty scales which you put among the Lagerstroemias. I believe you were right though it can hardly belong to any Lagerstroemia genera. I found last another little Acanthacea almost microscopic

June 18 This morning I got a letter of the date May 21 from Mr. Curtis in reply to mine [illegible] But a greater wonder is how his ever found me. He directed simply "Asa Wright Maui Hawaii, Cuba, W. Indies" I [illegible] to get [illegible] to give him a correct address. Just at that time though we be many miles apart by water we are not so far apart as formerly. I have just received the first instalment from my agent — you see me. I have not needed it before. It appears to be very nice paper — a little heavier than that I have in myself

Probably the weeks for Dr. of the three species Pteris collected in my late trip to the River Arima from you will be at specimens by the [illegible] steamer which leaves before yesterday. I sent to the Capt. my letter to him asking him to put in the bill [illegible] Then data is worth nothing to you the plants sent in from St. J. & would it then or would perhaps be well for us to have some one on the look-out for the arrival of the vessel

I have only a minute or more to fall back upon a few of which I have often thought to write to you but [illegible]

Monte Verde June 21st 1859

Dear Dr.

Yours of the 10th alt came this evening. I should have replied by return mail but for the fact that I was [illegible] hunting. I send you a little plant with name for you don't like it to go hunting a jaw-cracker in your Greek dictionary. Stick to it my name with a double i & the last [illegible] then you get that you will get [illegible]. Well my name for it will have some showing with [illegible] in my opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. I found Verbena alba, apparently the semblance of a fruit & thus [illegible] is striking so it must be V. [illegible] or [illegible] Indian. In sending Gyrobach his cat you had better set the matter right. A few days ago I wrote that I must get for some flowers that I had seen in the ground when [illegible] the specimen above mentioned. I went today & got them. It is a Vitex a good shrub with digitate leaves after the fashion of horse chestnuts. I got some more specimens of Hieracium [illegible] & I suspect it is the Hieracium [illegible] which you will soon have flowers in abundance & a section of the fruit with the key in a letter. I was rather hoping than expecting [illegible] from Gray would come. I knew that the last mail would be in before you could get my letter & make your arrangements to go via [illegible]. If it won't be [illegible] by [illegible] in the [illegible] to the south where she went & intends to stay a little time. Indeed you will be from [illegible] uncomfortably warm there this hot weather. But I venture to say it is now much cooler than in Cambridge. It will [illegible] in the fall. Mr L. went away yesterday morning to [illegible] & I was at the first [illegible] of our letter [illegible] in this matter. He said if [illegible] you must [illegible]

elongated. The leaflets are papyraceous, the color white but
covered with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

Monte Video June

pressing thick woods as is typical to me in the p...
...when he got a certain kind of flowers
...I think after I do the best I can in the wo... in th
...always [illegible] have to [illegible]
...[illegible] specialties [illegible] I suppose
...[illegible] ing with [illegible]
...[illegible] ing Ryan [illegible] has
...reach me. You may however order to be sent to Mr
...Desaille the "Courier des Etats Unis"
(French) if you please. There is an editor [illegible]

On my way to town I collected a good number of
...

...Evidently I am in any case
...attacks 4–5 times a week [illegible]
...[illegible] names of grasses [illegible]
...[illegible] unfortunately acute. I [illegible]
...[illegible] or "5-finger". The acheni
were too young for me to determine anything from them & I
...[illegible] for instance. Nor I dont know how many
...pieces there for her Dietrich fails me altogether. In fact he
...was wretchedly deficient in botanical. In my examination
of this plant I find that the whole subscribe Retzius as given in
Linnaeus's Mantissa except [illegible] in this may
...[illegible] in California, Pacific [illegible]
...[illegible] I am inclined to think [illegible] in having
...[illegible] with [illegible] more [illegible]
...[illegible] one [illegible] however. I do find now & then a crumb
of comfort in it

I write you in my last of the nice things I was finding
...[illegible] ing down a piece of timber down I dont
...[illegible] am sure before I have a hundred that
I have [illegible] again in the spring a day would be a
...[illegible] no rain. Today I just had enough of dim
sunshine to heat my driers a little. However though I
have a good [illegible] there for are not suf-
fering.

A word [illegible] to the naming of plants. It is natural that I
should desire occasionally to give a name to a plant where
there seems a reasonable probability that it is undescribed
especially as it will be done in such a way as to avoid [illegible]
varying the species with synonyms if the name suggested is
[illegible] occupies or if it is applied to another already named genus.
There are not many families or even genera
to do. It is not the nettle proofs be about a wood a
fish in any to work in especially as that [illegible] has been lately
worked up & cut in rather a compact form. It was partly with this
view that I asked you to send [illegible] that you headed
me off on that course with not even a "parent" nothing
but a "genus". There are probably new things among the
Melastomaceae but the latest monograph is scattered among
three [illegible] several volumes of the botanicals so [illegible] would
be [illegible] difficulty [illegible] & [illegible] Compositae are not very numerous
[illegible] it is a family [illegible] difficult for me to venture in. So of the
orchids though I have seen [illegible] me little shape. However
I do like [illegible] in my
[illegible] I'll get a Latin Dictionary in my
"[illegible]" to offer me the right word just when I want it.
So I have sometimes just put down what I thought would
be [illegible] name [illegible] whatever

may do in this way shall have at least one merit that of appropriateness. I shall not, such jaw-crackers as those Russian & Polish ones appear to an English ear!

Monte Video July 5th 1865

Dear Dr

We are enjoying the comforts of a visit to Baltic — now quite so cold as when they first got from the Arctic regions — but cold enough to give me a stiff attack of the snuffles, & to stick the fur in my throat so fast that I have been laboring, in vain, all day to dislodge him. A few days ago I went to La Pelle farallons & got some new things. Among them a fern with very small fronds, not larger than a sweet pea & leaves somewhat proportional. I got also a broad new fern of the Pittaea type, but almost as thick as broad. Like the others, many of the fronds in bottle & quite short, but it will display itself. It is Pittaea. I found but one bunch of it, like the others, epiphytic. This & another species which I believe has been found since I sent away my collections have the habit of fruit stood midway between the Pittaea and Adiantum. Yesterday after employing the morning in drying moss with the help of the little dim sunshine I could get I went a little way with the woods to look upon some thing which had all the look & habit of a Mesospermacea (principally plants only) with a 3-celled many fruit but the ovule is attached to the axis of the ovary & not to the axis. What does Endlicher mean when he says the ovules is parietal? Perhaps it may be it don't fit well any of his genera. I found some of a Big mound on the ground & climbing trees where I got beside three or four other plants. I cut a small one which seems to be some kind of a fruit the stipules are adnate & leave no little sign behind them

9th by firing my pistol but it does create a lot
of smoke.
7th Friday came and brought me a letter from
Asheville, the 6th. I had sent him the
address of Dr. Westrophora, N.C. He can't now write
a book on which to express his sadness
terse.
Eleanor left this [illegible]
for Cocolota not long after.
[illegible] specimens were [illegible] it was in a
hurry or else I'd've hindered. You have it before
now or it is not the [illegible] mine.
As [illegible] have written to
[illegible] out the [illegible] think I have [illegible]
[illegible] from little plants found near the mesa
was [illegible]
My [illegible] letter will inform you of new arrange-
ments to [illegible] by which it is disposed [illegible]
[illegible] from Asheville personally or from Ella.
I didn't intend to say any thing about Eleanor
[illegible] Cocolota publications. It was a conscious omis-
sion (mine) a slip of [illegible] talking on you
know I should have [illegible]
[illegible]
specimens.
[illegible]
[illegible] the
fortunes of N.C.
[illegible]
[illegible] Before I've finished resting a day or two with a view to
[illegible] which I [illegible] a couple of [illegible] your
[illegible]. Have you a [illegible] Shufeldt, write
me at. Ca, it is a town of several thousand, I
[illegible] a letter [illegible] out where it

divided into zones. I say divided for they
[illegible] began to inflate themselves at the middle
with [illegible] the appearance of a [illegible]
about
I have never seen one in its natural state. [illegible]
can ever be found [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] numbers [illegible] tried till
[illegible] was [illegible]
[illegible] lakes. [illegible]
[illegible] experiment [illegible] the pre-
[illegible] [illegible] to get a nice
[illegible] it. [illegible]
[illegible] 46. I have [illegible]
[illegible] have touched upon some of the matters
contained in yours & render unnecessary any remarks
of a particular [illegible] those relative to the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] must be the cause of [illegible]
[illegible] ink will [illegible]
[illegible] you [illegible]
[illegible]
later
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

time I was sorry I was in such a hurry in packing my pails when I belonged especially as the flowers seem to have a polygamous habit. At least while some are expanded with the anthers shedding out & the pistil included others have the pistil out & bud with the stamens included & the stigma effete. That is a common occurrence among the Polygonaceæ & this has some of its characters quite well. The Chinese Rhei kindred genera but not entirely with any so far as I can judge from the flowers only.

I have been looking a little into the garden & found four species I think I have saved plenty of specimens — 3 in flower & one in fruit. The rest may be then — I shall endeavor to find

The work on the new road, of which I wrote in a former letter, & which I hoped to get flowers from the fallen tree, is, for the present, countermanded.

I wrote some time ago that I wanted a set of my plants saved for me. Your uncle seems to be "yes — a set of all your plants — & part of my herbarium will must be to you to work it." In making this request I had a particular project in view which may never be put in execution. However as you will have an opportunity of answering my purpose at all — so you had better save me a set of every thing unless it may be very scanty & at the same time you are creating the working of Harris's Dr. Young I have been visiting — one to visit Mr Henry Ledyard, a nephew of the old gentleman, to enquire about "it" & to talk English. He is a small lively & very intelligent boy of 4 miles lower down — a very clever fellow. He came with me into my study & examined his collection of Polyporei & other fungi. He

Austin, July 18th 1859

would be cha
do very easily

It means "hor Cantaros" — "pitchers full"

species in Gris
and another time.

ram, I went out in
things & filling

till morning,

& frog's eggs,

it was frog-eggs, may
it not rain fish.

scratches I get in my excursions with the bushes become
suppurating sores & I have one of Job's comforts under my left arm
It is not yet painful & I ought to be thankful. It makes me
stay in the house more than I like. Better that the bad blood
take its put thus than to have the fever.

I have seen plenty of the fruit of that Placentiaceous
tree, of which I had written before. It is a true capsule
dehiscing spontaneously into three thick (½ inch) soft
fleshy valves recurved — seed with a scarlet coat
20th. I have just [illegible] of the 31st ult. year to new
of the quick passage of the Galvanic. I can remember such
in the Jupiter vessel. I am greatly disappointed to
learn that the lower coast is so very sickly — particularly
East Alicium — so called a Spinamina. I shall
not venture there for it when I go there. By the way an
I sent to a Gentleman in Tasmania I obtained
some of the little specimen with Mr L. showed me
Two sp. of Alicium which he had in cultivation quite
strong — one at least native. He is interested in them for
the flavoring of tobacco. is to Dietrich I suppose
bought it. However if I should go up some river I
shall then think it worth returning for. I suppose you
will allow me to pay for it. — I hope you will not
think me an encumbrance to ask you to send me
some copy of Medell — a present I suppose from the
author.

Yesterday however I went to the Scrubs & found a
Myrtle with very spicy leaves like Pimenta. I discovered
the matter. The nest of Lemania is the very top of which
is a racemose pretty well grown fruit — presently. This
[illegible]
then I came to think for the first it was more like
I suppose to pelt (the fruiting) [illegible]

I could not find it. I got however a new Proteaceous
plant — a stout bush. It does not stretch well into
any of Bentl.' genera — [illegible] also a bush of Thesium
with a few panicles of flowers

There is a small urticaceous tree of [illegible] the
type of inflorescence — peduncle rachis, cincles [illegible] either ab
origine or becomes an irregularly [illegible] cohering cupfellaid
mass with the seeds in clusters [illegible] in shallow cavities
on the surface. Till yesterday I knew of but two trees one
close by here — pistillate & another at Mr. Henry Lescailles —
staminate. Yesterday I found some more trees than I suppose
as they bore no fruit while the tree near here has an abundance.
I got the fruit when here before. Is it a kind of connecting
link to the [illegible]?

The comfort I mentioned above has behaved very kindly,
hasn't ached at all, has only been tender to touch. But I
feel now as if it was mustering strength for another trial
as if determined to make me suffer. I went this
evening a little way down the creek further on a prospecting
tour than with the expectation of collecting much. I brought
in a handful — two specimens of a Carex which ought
to be C. spicata but there is a point to it. The stem is as
evenly erect as a corkscrew curled [illegible]. The flowers are
deeper, the lower segm. of cor. lighter — leaves longer
rather narrower for obovate, a culminate rib underneath
[illegible] specimens under way. I found a
plenty of an Orchid just coming into flower of which
I have yet got only three specimens & strange it were
so I hope to get enough. I got also Stackhousia
22nd. My armpit is a genuine Sierra del fuego — one
crater has exhausted itself, another big one is just
ready to erupt and there are sensible indications that

a thin one is in preparation, becomes a little bit of ones—pimple-like—lateral outlet by the matter that cannot get to the main ones. It just one week ago today as I was in it is not very painful & has not been, I was in the woods all my gathering specimens & taking stock, as it were, & I came across a new thing, am welcome addition now—an abundance of Euphorbia —call it E. monantha [illegible] than one flower, on a maintaunch. I have been watching a small tree, which I know but as a specimen with leaves like Crassiacea. I had examined and put the ovaries were too young to appreciate its fertilization. Yesterday I found the ovaries expanded [illegible] ones—but without pistils, & examination of the end treats them however [illegible] seeds must be very small. [illegible] Scale, (lanceolate), [illegible] in the axil of numerous [illegible] or [illegible] rather, Leaves opposite. I can't think where it belongs unless to Hypericineae. I got also a pretty Liliaceae the flower in head or umbels—cor. apparently a [illegible] Filaments 6 anthers with a long slender [illegible] In each cell. I suspect there is something [illegible] about it. But what seems [illegible] or type of the growing? [illegible] in a little [illegible] usually a reddish or orange color sometimes dividing like horns & following the direction of the [illegible] leaves. I got out [illegible] the pistil (very small). Hot situation. For several days we have had no rain. I don't [illegible] out in the afternoon when I had dried my plants in the early part of the day.

[illegible]

(P. S. 23) [illegible] No 2 has sprouted & No 3 seems to be going up

P.S. Jul. 11. I must to give you an account of yesterday botanizing
I was before I went out in the afternoon for a particular orchid, I got it
but was soon driven in by the rain. I escaped a most serious answer
with only a slight wetting. [illegible] but had'n't time
to cut the one. Well yesterday my main object was to get the Dactylorhiza
does seem to be another Dietr.'s species. I collected a plenty of Orchis
stipularis though I don't see any thing in the specimens why it
should be a species. I suppose [illegible] Hymenorchis
were in finding fruiting heads of several, I don't agree as to
the number, one or six saving more or less specimens each.
This time [illegible] a Pentadactylis which seems to me
[illegible] in Lindley's
Synum. [illegible] I cleared such ra-
cemes as were sufficiently [illegible] used in labeling you with such,
of course. I don't know how near ripe,
were pretty [illegible] flowers. The earlier racemes
[illegible] arils. The later ones
[illegible] as there are several in the box state I may obtain
ripe fruit. Keyte I found a Larva in fruit & took a plenty. I may
have got this before. Some such thing it is almost impossible
to retain in the memory. I believe I met with it [illegible]
may a very slender [illegible] high. I may have [illegible] this in fruit
when Mr. L. cut down his timber — so [illegible] was a great
[illegible]. I the same plant [illegible] racemes of some
[illegible] with dark red flowers not
in Bot. certainly. I got it when last before & have this time
sent home plenty of fruit. I got dried some specimens of a
myth. I be many thin [illegible] more study at all about
the pretty [illegible] we entered. I have got it before. I picked up
[illegible] specimens of Acanthus which however I have
before and in pretty good quantity [illegible] in the thick wood
May [illegible] Simeon [illegible]. The next novelty that occurs
to my [illegible] is a [illegible] flowers & 5 stamens [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible] a cemetery, but the country is wonderfully [illegible]
[illegible] the rocks are in the old state. Till I walk some distance
[illegible] I catch my toes & prick my fingers a good deal & yet I
met anything of special interest. I found a kiln with flowers
I thought different from anything I had previously met &
sent it; but it would not come down [illegible] in which
[illegible] them. [illegible] found some flowers of Santanbais
only two or three specimens however. Close by discovered a
Forsteria which I shall call for the present F. tubulosa and a
delicate little Euphorbia [illegible] I shall leave for another
year to collect & preserve. I never collect specimens of
a species where each is [illegible] or doubly
named — as I am it may be E. pubescens [illegible] These
two plants were growing among the rocks in the bed of Pratt
creek where they are overflowed after every heavy shower
[illegible] however was also the land of the Sunny high
water. I came near passing it by as a dry [illegible] early
which it was growing & a thick & strikingly resembles. Down
the creek a piece I [illegible] specimens some of which [illegible]
ality however as I [illegible] before. I believe. The night I
[illegible] my attention was a Dispyros with the fruit
[illegible] in threes. I suppose I have sent some [illegible]
species. [illegible] same place I found some thing for
Xanthium [illegible] & had a struggle for it as I wished
to save the fruit for the fruit. The Forsteria is a much
[illegible] compound raceme. — flowers — calyx dark red. petals
light purple. [illegible] I stored my collecting
[illegible] on the way in I found flowers under
[illegible] which I must [illegible] some time now
[illegible] to leave this place when I made such
a haul as I found that I have been there 20 times before
& recently too? Put my name on the envelope of your letters or
they may reach me via Paris. Better direct "Care Messrs Brooks & Co"

July 12. Yesterday I was out in the morning a short time
& got a Melastomace near Guildford & a Saxifragaceous
[illegible] & bracken & it quite distinct from anything in Bot.
Bay. Today I went out in the afternoon but was soon
driven in by the rain. I picked up flowers of Portlandia
but had no time to and the rain. I mean to go over it
in the morning. It is the only one I have seen this
year. I got a Psychotria which I think is distinct
from any heretofore collected. but there are so many
[illegible] & so much alike that it is almost impossible to remember them from one day to another
this morning I came upon two species of Cissus
both with [illegible] flowers & quite different from [illegible]
which also has red flowers. I must have collected at
least six species of this genus

Monte Verde May 5th 1859

Dear Dr

Yesterday I went down where they are cutting the new road. Most of it had been already cut & I knew nothing of it. However if I had known it I could not have been there on account of my boys. I have had four in succession under the knife from one end of the road. They are now about well & yesterday is the first day that I have been to any distance. I made some excursions in the woods for about a week & then got a negro to cut my trees & made [illegible] when my arm was pretty [illegible]. Below [illegible] are now in flower, & I have some good things — several species of Lycopodium (I could find but one any of my books) a common tree-fern [illegible] a Cacalia, tree not in Fl. certainly. Returning I picked up among other things a Cacalia bit with three erect ovules in the ovary & [illegible] flowers (of which I have only the female). I suspect it is a common thing about here also. At any rate I have before collected [illegible] with similar fruit. It is in this respect quite unlike anything I can find described. I thought I should find mosses below but was disappointed — however I got some [illegible] lichens. All my old sores are well but this morning I found a fresh one just above the ankle an angry vicious looking [illegible] all the road over [illegible] I shall have to be cautious [illegible] from tonic & cathartics.

I have collected two Rubiaceous plants which I take to be Spathaceae but they have the ovules pendulous not erect as Endl. represents them.

Before commencing to collect the wood I [illegible] I would like to know from what part of the trunk to take it. The base is more solid and often covered with a thick layer of [illegible]

(...in some species) All the inner part of the upper portion is so loose in texture that it soon falls away & leaves nothing but the shell. Some are two inches in diam.

6th I have just examined another species—the third—of what I believe is Guettarda & I find the ovules as in the others pendulous. I found this morning a flower of Gallicia—or if not that it must belong to some [illegible] as to the flower is concerned I see no disagreement of the plant from the definition [illegible]—but the anther-cells are Divaricate—and divergent below. It is a small tree to the ... of 20'-30' & the stem is an inch thick ± I believe it also has some what like Mussaenda by taking a turn sailor fashion, with a small branch in and my specimen has not a leaf & a remnant of the wood.

7th W. ...ious little fellow has given to a respectable share of his family and set me up. I can [illegible] — more inspiring be such. My ... is much inflamed & swollen—it is not sore to touch & I hope will be softer soon. It is more painful than the other side was once. It is cloudy & has been cloudy all day & showery withal

I have collected 2 species of Vanilla—V. claviculata which I should never have recognized from the description nor I know I ever should [illegible] kindly has so named it, and another common one but rare (so far as my experience goes) in flower & fruit. In both the lip is convolute and connate to the column half its length or more presenting the appearance of a rather narrow deep goblet—a little one-sided. What then can "plicata" mean as applied to the lip in [illegible]?

I am becoming impatient to hear what you have reason to hear. Since Mr. L. went away I can't learn what becomes of [illegible]. Had it not been for my ... I would have gone to Salvador & back to make inquiry. His lawyer lives in this latter place & letters may be sent thither [illegible] from whom I have not been direct[illegible] in some time but ... some things [illegible] ... becomes of them. I have a note from him to Mr. L. Stuck I suppose came by the vessel that brought the things. It would seem high time that the ... would come too, but whether it is stopped in Bahia [illegible] ... by Brooks & Co or whether it is not yet sent I don't know. I have asked Mr. Henry to call to enquire after it appealing to his self-interest—for it will benefit him as well as us

12. Dear me! It seems a long time since I got yours of June 30th. No letters, no papers, & sore legs make the time drag heavily. My sores however are all well. or there is only a tenderness & slight swelling in [illegible] the last one. I am rather favoring it by indulging in laziness. I took a little turn in the woods yesterday for the first time since that vicious little fellow laid me up. I found (I believe) a new Lecythidaceum—at least I don't remember ever having collected it. This morning I saved [illegible] specimens one of which I sent beyond [illegible] alluding to Bentham's register to put flowers & fruit from the same tree. I have sent you the fruit. It is a bivalved pod 3-4 long containing [illegible] seeds enveloped in red pulp & was collected some time in the month Jan. or Feb. probably. Fl. & fr. from the same tree. This is the best I can do for identification. Then will probably be [illegible] uncertainty about it. Today I went to the Point but did not find much. I followed the path & had to go cautiously to spare my sore shin. I hope I am done with the sores as the little pustules I get show no tendency to inflame & suppurate

Since Mr L. went away we get no papers & I might as well be in the centre of Sahara as here so far as

getting news is concerned. The latest news I have read of the state of affairs in Europe was just the beginning of hostilities between the French & Austrians.

I got yesterday a plenty of the plant of which I sent you a specimen in my last — a shrub — leaves of Clusiaceæ the flowers more like Hypericaceæ

It seems as if the warm weather which I have had these days I have felt quite well & strong, with a good appetite & the digestive system apparently in good order.

13th. I have just got yours of July 6th — the first intimation I have received that the plants did not go by the La Grange. I suppose Rost & Co has attended to the matter. It was important that it was to attend to it & inform me of it. I ought to have gone down & attended to it myself or made inquiry about it. I can't with a clear conscience say that it is of R. & Co — they were so kind to me two years ago. (But I am afraid) I am not receiving intelligence of their safe reception instead of their being left behind for lack of cabin doors big enough to admit them. I should very much doubt whether the time of sugar would suit them, but it was safer at least to yield to the judgment of those who knew — better than I do. But how in the world comes it that your letter (postmarked N.Y. July 18) is five weeks in coming here. Will it some relief to know the true state of affairs. I was expecting the papers from N.Y. As Mr L. is gone & I shall probably not stay much longer now I shall give myself no more trouble about it. I find to hear that we have got the remaining value of the last plants. I shall have to get some money on the "letter of credit" of Cunningham & Co the first time I go to the village. I got yesterday a Euonymus? a very pretty — like bush or small tree with small white flowers, but — the leaves are almost as those — well ??? the more I look at it the more I don't know what to make of it.

Yours sincerely,

Asa Wright

P.S. Aug 15. Oh! I was treated by the mayoress with studied neglect in a matter wherein my request was a very reasonable one. It will probably be the last attention I shall ever get from her. Tomorrow I mean to go to Hinojosa to have a talk with him. He was here today & wished to see me. I should not wonder if Mr. Gaston the overseer gets [illegible] to leave. There was some difficulty yesterday which I could not understand. Which he beat one of the horse-servants over the head & face with his hand (not fist the hand is heavy enough to do harm when brought into contact with even a negro's head. The woman ran off to Henry's but was brought back today. She is to be [illegible] severely.

I think I shall pack up what plants I have dried & send them off before I leave. I will let you know however. My present plan is to go to Roma this — the other [illegible] — for a week or two & meanwhile make up my mind as to the best plan to get into the prairie region. I may go first for a visit to Loma del Gato.

I was out today & found some novelties — a Guaiacum or something near it with but 5 anthers & a 4-petalled corolla — I got the fruit & flowers. Leguminous tree which I wrote you long ago as having 3 inflorescence in a huge leafy bundle. I hope I got also a complement of the [illegible] flowers

J. W.

Mount Pleasant

Dear Dr

The other day I received a letter from Capt Hodges containing a return account which he thinks he can have accepted at the Navy Dept. in my favor. made it out to the amount of $260.00 which I believe as is likely will leave me a little balance of $80.00+

I was in the woods day before yesterday a greater distance than I have ever before but my winnings did not increase in proportion to the length of the walk — this were rather in a descending ratio & it was only when returning into the range of the good things. I got several specimens of a Dichaea which I had before collected only sterile, & got a third sp. of Vanilla (did I write in telling you the fact) a dead tree in the "burn" but sufficient to determine the species & not for distribution. I found also a new [illegible] down — very handsome. I next came upon a second sp. of Dorstenia. I got also two sp. of Peperomia. The specimens are scant — only one of each & but few of the other — or [illegible] spoil with Pl. nitida, Peperomia Pellucida & some others I never take any note but just take them when I find them tho' I may have eaten them a dozen times before. I must [illegible] these things on with [illegible] by & by I reckon. Yesterday I made [illegible] Parkinsonia aculeata & respectable collection besides preserving others which I could not get but will on Monday I must return tomorrow with the ax. I got a few new Ferns not in bud entirely unless any come given is considered a [illegible] I got also a

scrap of a Nyctagea very near Reichenbachii which I found away up in the Silbrea that I had climbed for it to flower. I believe I found the fruiting specimen of Hieracium or Ypsloma. Some months ago I got close by Mapla a staminate plant of the same species as mine. I got also an Ehretia which I do not remember collecting before though I may have found it formerly. I believe I can upon a new sp. of Chamaedora. A few days ago I was driving [illegible] by the cascade & among other things I remarked to specify I got plenty of a Hypericum and a tall grass 10–15 ft high which I believe to be Gynerium. Also a Polystichum? with only 2 sepals & 2 petals. Returning I passed enough [illegible] to my baggage horse. I believe I have now all of them in specimen number — That is all of which I have a reasonable expectation of filling up I hope I may meet with more specimens of the few that are quite absent but I can hardly expect it at least about here

29th. I take back what I have said above about Hemsleya or Fevillea*. The fruit entire is apt which excludes it & the [illegible] is inferior — so it cant be any odd sort of Cucurbit. It does look Rhamnoid — and I do not know what to do with it Least a fine with "Egyish" fruit & I cant make nothing out of that neither. I believe the calyx is adherent forming a sort of fleshy putamen? (is that what you call it) I cant remember the right application of these terms applied to the different parts of the fruit. It is somewhat pyriform bearing with 4 long equine slender ovules with curve outward at the ends. I took some pains to find out which was the radicular end but failed entirely although I extracted several nicely. What do you do in such a case? — guess at it? The leaves are cordate strongly nerved with a copious pubescence [illegible] very [illegible]

*2-capsulary — The carpels [illegible] Hemsleya with 2 [illegible]

covered with great membranous stipules or something of the sort. But dear me! it's of no use to give details to be named. Of all that I have sent you have named two with an "et" (comparatus) and nick-named another Quelchophora how! how! Cocculus I had found myself [illegible]. Watkins & Cyrillia helped me but I find the last so much at variance with the description & [illegible] that I have had to sew you another scrap with my guess about it. I must have sent you as many as a dozen things since your letter began to come to hand so that you have not referred to it. I have not received the [illegible] along time ago I sent a bit named Mozinna — at least ten weeks — probably three months.

22. I went again to La Perla yesterday intending to return through the woods by the Penal Settlement but was met by a man near Cisco — a kind of [illegible] phrenology all about carrying the marks of [illegible]. I got also a Dioscorea — a little [illegible] a thing growing up through [illegible] trees. I found in the same locality some new [illegible] which seemed near to this & [illegible] out the box. It is Sapindaceae? with leaves like Meliosma but the ovules have two only [illegible] & the parts of the flower are 4-nate or irregular. I took [illegible] stamens & in a new [illegible]. A very large disk all over the ovary. Petals [illegible] either working up to ripe early. [illegible] I don't think. Stigma very [illegible] ovules [illegible] Natural explanation is [illegible] all them [illegible] attached by the middle) ovules in each.

24. Yesterday afternoon I was out a little way in the wood and found a new Orchid a new fern — perhaps & cicuta a quite new Cascaria some bits of Jacquinia. I went mainly to look for fruit of Salacia reticulata but I find it very [illegible] business to hunt fruit of [illegible]. Yesterday [illegible]

by accident as it were

great anxiety with me, [illegible] my hand, or worse; & I don't know what [illegible]. That "Antillia" must be [illegible] up his papers again, in the Cuban mail-bag; & some other "mal-intencionados incantadores" are bent on [illegible] me. It is high time your letter & other [illegible] something [illegible]. I have been [illegible] things in your Lordship's employ, what with [illegible] the first [illegible] the [illegible] in drying some delicate Orchids, Bromelias, & Ferns; preparatory to packing up & [illegible] what I have again accumulated. Besides these I have lastly anything now in press.

I intended to say to have a [illegible] native newspapers sent to a neighbor to borrow; but it occurred to me that [illegible] "evening" was a "en cuenta" [illegible] must amuse myself, as best I may, reading [illegible] & drying my plants. [illegible] a specimen [illegible] a rare species of [illegible] about to open, I may go out [illegible] & would like very much to know the quantity of rain that [illegible], evaporating. It must be very great.

[illegible] Last [illegible] the first time, I remember well, I found staminate plants of the Carica papaya, a few days ago [illegible] species. I hit upon another locality of the second species of Dorstenia & got a plenty. Also one more specimen of the Piper of which you have before a single one. They are rather inconspicuous plants & hard to find or scarce. I found a few specimens

of a Rubiaceæ, with flowers six inches or more in length and stout &c. oval 1½' long or more. The stigmas resemble the mericarps of some evenly ribbed ~~cruciferæ~~ umbelliferæ. It belongs, I think to the section Hamelia. I sent you not long ago a scrap of what I took to be some queer Rubiaceæ & I dont now know what it is if it dont belong to that order but in two important points of structure it seems to differ. the stamens are epigynous & the anthers exserted. The ovary is two-celled with a single pendulous ovule in each cell. The flowers are on a common receptacle like the first subsection of Cinchoneæ. The terminal bud is often enveloped in a pillow and bears no distant resemblance to cows horns. From a single tree of some other Rubiaceæ I got four stamens three growing on the tree itself & the fourth [illegible] Upon it at first to Bricuceæ [illegible] at the apex of each. The embryo I find to agree with Bricuceæ Quien sabe? I passed by a tree which I have [illegible] a real & doubt to Hypericaceæ, in hopes of getting [illegible] but obtained it quite young — little better than the flowers, [illegible] here it may not be out of place to put down what I have observed [illegible] the time of trees. It must be two [illegible] specimens from this tree & then [illegible] plant lasts many times longer than in temperate latitudes At least this is true of some trees. So you see one of the difficulties in getting fruiting specimens from the same tree at once has been overcome. Another little tree of this I have been watching some time & have yet never seen [illegible] buds flowers and leaves. [illegible] Cal. [illegible] strictly hypogynous & 5-parted. Stamens 5, [illegible] Anthers constantly 6, with as many acute obscure [illegible] Ovary 2-celled with two collateral pendulous ovules

in each. Leaves [illegible] deeply lobed 3-5 pairs with terminal one [illegible] than the leaves — a compound [illegible] — if you please.

There is a young Irish Frenchman at a neighboring [illegible] man — at present engaged in [illegible] objects in natural history as a small [illegible] insects & fossils. I endeavored to persuade him that [illegible] be more profitable if he would devote his whole time to the [illegible] of plants. He was not even to have quite as [illegible] time as I was to undertake [illegible] with D'Candolle or some of your botanical friends at the Jardin des Plantes. It [illegible] in the end for I perceive plainly that I [illegible] both within any reasonable time to make [illegible] is a good woodsman (which I am not) [illegible] at any time to revisit a locality where [illegible] thing interesting but out of season.

In reading Lindleys account of the Cinchonaceæ I found a great blunder. He says the most northern sp. in the U.S. is Pinckneya pubens, overlooking the Old Catesbæas, Diodias tephalanthus, Mitchella & I dont know but others. I have [illegible] a plenty of the flowering specimens & some with fruit.

I call to mind another plant illustrative of the aberrations of leaves and [illegible] of Serenoa, For instance it has two plainly [illegible] I have [illegible] Type. [illegible]

much of novelty in any thing. I got some very acceptable fruits and a few bird skins & then a few more specimens to come that were scant. In the Pinal there is a composite with long wand like branches almost leafless, bearing small leaves. It resembles our bush tea in height of two feet or more. Soon after my arrival here from my trip I sent all my collecting case to me, or for. Nine months have now elapsed & it shows no signs of coming & I am afraid it shall not have I have sent out in the Pinal

The mayor sends to town tonight (6th) but I shall keep this in hope I shall get it tomorrow. I think I shall go in myself in a few days. I am waiting as her journey to going to Nogales Sophie for a few days & then to the neighborhood of Loma del Gato & Nimaniza

The name of the French gentleman spoken of above is Jean Sycot, & if he were to receive an encouraging letter from any French botanist of reputation I think it likely he would be induced to collect plants as well as insects

7th. Just got your long letter of 16th. Will it explain, I am sorry you are [illegible] (Echinocereus dichroacanthus ?) varieties. When I found [illegible] it was the first I ever collected & as my book accounts to one says anything about having thorns on it I thought it a good name. Certainly strange for a cactus. You will find under the Vertical drawing of the [illegible] plant belonging to this [illegible] with fleshy radicles* If you wonder at my long silence I might well wonder at yours July 6th — long 4 months all the while looking for the acknowledgement the receipt of the plants. Father Eggmann's Plant is Sweetia [illegible] Jacquinia & not Jacquinia D.C. to change it to Leptocera or Frutescens at least

Don't send me Jackmania or any thing else I can get here

* Wilcox Dear A I last mail sent the Tamaulipas

My father sent me [illegible] a copy of Sullivan
[illegible] I dig it. [illegible] is all I [illegible]
about it (to mention). I work I [illegible] and
instead [illegible] and the [illegible] work — why useless?!

I [illegible] my [illegible]. Mrs [illegible] my sisters. I [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] somewhere in the
states. I [illegible] with him I dare say he would
[illegible] for I see her as [illegible]
[illegible] by [illegible] as [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] my letters [illegible] the
[illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] when alone any [illegible]. Particularly [illegible]
[illegible] known as the [illegible] "Letters and
accidental [illegible]
may not [illegible]
What is the authority [illegible]
Dietrich has them in [illegible] while [illegible] "[illegible]"
[illegible]

If the [illegible] [illegible] depends on the running
[illegible] that remains [illegible] yes. I fear I shall be
[illegible] without profiting [illegible] I don't know who they [illegible]
[illegible] by my labors [illegible]
— for it is [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible]
I wish you to save me [illegible]
I do not mean that the important sets such as yours,
[illegible] should be cut-
tailed for that end. It is by no [illegible] that it in-
clines [illegible]. Wherever there is enough [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] that it is my wish

9th I have just packed up ev

Saturday 11 No matter what I promised
to say over the [illegible] could finish it for the cats
would not run. Well to [illegible] yours of the 25th I am
sorry it doesn't report the arrival of the plants — but the
reason may they were [illegible] on the big Brothers
Satellite. If I don't tell me when. Jack Mr McKin-
ley sent Mr Brooks [illegible] to
satisfy me in these little matters. A vessel for New York
is expected here in a few days & he can't tell me her name
I don't know that I can do better than to leave my plants
to go by her. They promise me to use their influence to have
them well cared for. They are put up securely in [illegible] tubes
like tobacco

No more at present — Hot & sultry here. I return
tomorrow & think that in about ten days or two weeks
I shall go to Mrs Sophie
I expect to be sleepy soon as Adios

Yours ever
Charles Wright

P. S. If you had better direct to Cuba next & waiting
de Cuba

better turn it over to my brother
You need say, I'd rather you have
y. I may marry my U.S. navy
agent.

If I get away I will go out again
a short time among the grasses and
pick up a few bees to be sure
for me. I am beginning to think
that if I follow literally your
exhortation to get "blankets" even
if they are baby-blankets or even
doll-blankets of all I see whether
I observe punctification or not
I may live to get bye to Phanogamy
(and of these fruitless Hepat. here
is one to tell when he has got the
same thing twenty times over
If I had a compound microscope
in my vicinity I would always
choose with judgment

[illegible]

U. S. Sept 1901

Dear Dr.

I congratulate myself
you two on my good luck in
getting some ink "as is" under
Upham's pulp. Thought pale at
first shows a decision melanin
to become visible in a short
time. I pin a Solanum here
(I got it on my former visit also)
whose calyx is not parted nor
cleft — not even toothed — if
so the teeth are hardly visible
The corolla lobes are those of Solan-
num I have not examined the ft.
What are you going to do with
such a thing; make a new gen.
or alter the gen. char. to fit it?
It crowds over bushes & up trees
20 or 30 feet has ovate rugose leaves
conduit at base & loose panicles

of rather large purple flowers
Yesterday in a short ramble
along the Palenque road I got
a Sapindacea which I
do not remember having
previously found — a Serjania
a. Hystrix? a spinous weather
glass which I can make out with
any means I have. I have sent
away a large parcel, my dress
to Nouvelle Sophie & shall
run up here this week & the next
follow them

I have observed in several
instances that the flowers
of Lichens impart to the
paper a fixed oil — from the glands
of the cups?

Tuckerman in a late letter
suggests that no distribution
of Lichens be made till "the
whole are together" I ask
him when he thinks "that
will be" & observe that four
or five years is too long to
wait for ones powers. In
fact my experience of the
income derived from the lower
crypts is not encouraging.

16th yesterday I went a few
hours among the Mosses & Lichens
& brought in a little load of
course I never or seldom know whether
I get any thing new — among
these. If I collect them each
year again I suppose they'll
benefit somebody & not me

You don't say whether or not
you ever received Sertella

Have you got my copy of
Worcester's Dictionary. If not
you must with an opportunity
I send it to Hartford you ha

of it when ripe as well as
to have a specimen from
time to time as it grows
towards maturity. (Thus)
hope to get all the material
for making out the things
as I have become interested
in it. Shall [illegible]
[illegible] the Fleabody [illegible]

2. I [illegible] from Bell that
has received our returns of the
crucial in N. Y. of the Bug Butter
Oct 2. Mr. [illegible] can send to Cuba
tonight? I must [illegible]
not. I am just about to [illegible]
[illegible] from Mr. Lesquereux - the
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] a day or two. Some time
[illegible] I will [illegible] that book

that I am [illegible]
in consequence of the [illegible]
in the [illegible] plants
many that I remember col-
cating [illegible] me that
[illegible] recalled [illegible] the
in his attack me as interesting
in the [illegible] collection I am
[illegible] without [illegible] work
[illegible] there, I mean [illegible] the step
neighborhood, [illegible] at the [illegible] of
the [illegible] mountains, nearly to the top
[illegible] mountain [illegible]
To-day I have been studying them
[illegible] under the [illegible]
[illegible] to the [illegible] I
[illegible] from the [illegible], I made
[illegible] I can't though I do not
[illegible] mistake to the very
bottom of the [illegible] which is [illegible]
[illegible] I am [illegible]

of getting the seeds. I mean to try again soon. I am at least four years, not including at N.Y. & I can still call to mind others at Bath &c on that section

In coming on here I have had through some little praries. I carried no rattle for collecting knowing I should have no time to stop by the way. Not withstanding I could not resist the temptation of picking up a few things which struck me as particularly nice and tucking them away in the best manner I could. I shall have to return on the road and make a days sit for it on the prairies. I have the impression that I shall not be long detained here. Probably in the course of the morning I shall go on to Buffalo or rather to Mr Buttrick, as being nearer to Niagara the Hancy special interest began to

I mean to go to Cobourg when I shall ask Mr. B's advice as to the best season. The best place to get into your favorite botanizing ground — the branch of the otter near the mountain.

Before leaving Mr. I made a last visit to my Hyperion countenance & fixed a little more moustache, like it not also. A man whom I engage to look out & save a good lot

14 Sept 1859

I have no idea when I collected it. May be I'll stumble on it again somewhere

7th [illegible]

[illegible] excursion to the Farallones & boughs is quite a lot of things some rather queer Among others I found a 1-petaled Leyum? perhaps allied to Eschscholtzia or Platystemon but the calyx is truncate & the ovary is on a longish stipe 2-celled I find a Menziesia? which looks exactly like one I used to collect in Texas It has but 20 stamens the outer ones or one two each 5 [illegible] & petaloid but with an anther. I found another species of Ribes a small tree with lobed [illegible] rather as I think a new sp of Trichostemon and two or three other ferns not found at St. F.

But I must wind up

Yours truly

Chas Kellogg

Santiago de Cuba - Oct 17/59

Dear Dr.

I came here this morning and my principal business being to get money I spoke to two or three of the principal houses on the subject. The result is that now it is impossible to get any money on that "letter of credit" or whatever it may be called. So I send it back to you. One firm objected to its age — now nearly a year from date. Another says the firm of "Morrison Bros" has been changed. Moreover it appears to be not a letter of credit but a recommendation to the firm & a solicitation that they aid me in getting money. True I got some by means of its counterpart before. But then it a "crisis" now in Havanna & every body here is afraid of every body there. Mr Bradford generously relieved my present necessities by voluntarily offering to supply me with what I needed — so I took two doubloons gratefully. And now my future movements must depend upon your promptitude in sending me means of travel.

One gentleman advises me that you deposit with some house in Boston which has business connection with some house in "this city" not Havanna any sum you think necessary. I would say not over $4,200.00 subject to my order here. I dont know any better plan — if you do adopt it. You will have to hunt up this business

connexion too for I cant. Salles Masforroll & Co are winding up & from the observations of one of the house of Hooks & Co. I infer that they dont want to transact such small matters, or for some other reason dont want to act in this manner.

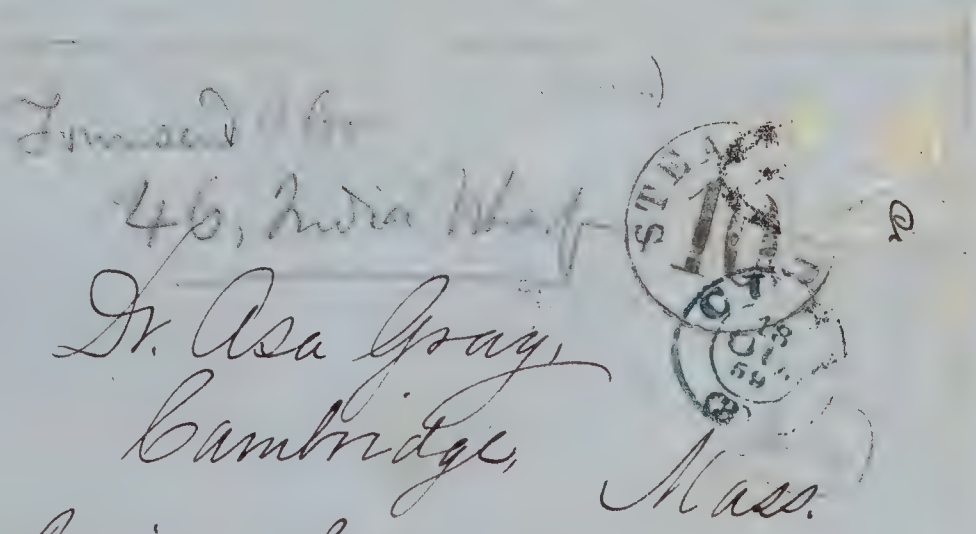
I suppose by means of your friends in Boston you can find some house there which has ~~some~~ direct pecuniary connexion with some house in this city & if so nothing seems to me easier than to supply me with money in this way. But I am not at all particular and any way will serve me so I get the money: I ought to have attended to this business before my funds had run so low but it is now too late to retrieve this neglect. You will get this probably early next month if not before. & ought to be able to have the business well arranged by the end of it. That will do.

I am informed that the Brother had a quick passage to N. Y. This is some satisfaction - but it dont quite relieve my anxiety about my plants for I think I remember seeing a hole in the head of one of the hogsheads. If that hole were low & heavy seas were shipped injury to the plants might well result. I hope you are enjoying more quiet & comfort about them than I am I shall in future adopt a different plan & send them off in smaller parcels as I collect them & of such dimensions that they can be boxed — if I can find boxes to put them in

I consulted Mr Bradford as to the best time & place to botanize in the prairie region. And he gives Jan. & Feb. as the best time & the Holguin region as the place. I shall want some paper shipped but I hardly know yet where to have it sent. I think I shall have enough left here to keep me busy some time whereas I may go till I can order more sent on. Between now & Jan 2 shall take a peep or two at Loma del Gato & Nimanima & then be ready to go to Puerto Principe or such other place as may appear more convenient to the prairie country — Meantime do your best to get me out of the breakers into deep water & oblige

Yours Truly
Chas Wright

P. S. I had nearly forgotten to say that the firm of Kessler & Gerundy have dissolved partnership. Please write to me under cover to [illegible]


Dr. Asa Gray,
Cambridge,
Mass.
United States of America.

Jean - Baptiste Pinet.

Santa Catalina de Guantanamo

Island of Cuba

Jean Baptiste Venet
Santa Catalina de Guantanamo
Island of Cuba

Santiago de Cuba Oct 18th 75

Dear Daniel,

I dont know what better news I could have got than your acknowledgement of the receipt, in good order of the two Hogsheads of stuff. This news came this morning in your letter, rather old, of the 7th inst. I had just put a letter in the P.O. giving you an account of my financial condition - To this I have nothing to add. I have been all day hunting in vain a box of my clothing sent me by my brother I look upon it as lost. Well let it go as the plants are safe I dont care.

In respect to palm stems I doubt if it will be easy to get them near the coast but in the interior the easiest possible matter. The same with tree-ferns. And if you dont want the pieces large or long (more than 5 or 6 ft say)

for me that I alone could enjoy - than my wishing for the French one. Henceforth I shall have better opportunities to peep into them now I dare

Yours truly

Chas Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

It will be easy enough to transport them [illegible] the interior to the coast. I should think a very short piece or several of them at different heights would be quite [illegible] for structure as the whole trunk. I have at N.Y. a number of tree-fern stipes some of them 6 ft long. They are light & can be easily carried to Saltaden. I expect you will have a belly-full of Rubiaceæ It seems to me there are more of them than any thing else except ferns. Your letter dont after all entirely relieve my anxiety though it does in a good degree. You speak only of opening one hogshead & of taking out only one parcel for particular examination [illegible] "all felt dry" However I'll hope for the best till I get a fuller report. I remember seeing a hole in the head of one of the [illegible] This has caused me anxiety since I knew how they were shipped which I have no doubt was on deck but well covered with Tarpaulins. I have but little fear except on account of the hole— there might have been others which I did not see.

The birds are all gone & left me in capital health. Against divers advices I refused to take any medicine or to apply the knife. I believe it [illegible] only that it was an effort of nature to eject morbid matter from the system in its own way & I did not think best to thwart her operations by drugs or cold steel

My next batch of plants from St. Sophie & Sinanina — perhaps will be shipped at this place. They are growing in a package of considerable size but no future collection will aspire to fill two hogsheads. I write you that I am getting some good things at the Sarattons or Cicops as some call them. The right for the Cacoxylons I shall probably miss — at least for the present. I have nowhere seen it but at the Pic[illegible]

As to papers I dont quite like to send

[illegible] heels, this is Indian custom.
[illegible] for [illegible] in Mexico.
It is almost impossible to feel vexed at these annoyances all — last night included — as I am [illegible] with such hearty good will. I am urged to stay a few days longer. Flores [illegible] me to Dr. Trigo's [illegible] a distance of [illegible] leagues in the woods. He first [illegible] on sending a negro with me, to carry [illegible]. While [illegible] I stole a march on him — went before he was up. It has been a very pretty, if somewhat bitter, day. The negro interests himself much in hunting me plants, & has returned with some. I have not met with many. Flora will, naturally, vary [illegible] in some respects; certainly, gentlemen, you are welcome to live in this [illegible] half-civilized country. But they have grown up with it, and are blind to its disagreeable features.
[illegible] Ah, yet, it would [illegible], this, with a couple of [illegible] to [illegible] to apply to simples, neatly pressed [illegible] then must, occasionally, see it [illegible] or [illegible] in the water. Such is "refrigeration"! I will take an [illegible] with the [illegible], or [illegible] baths like it, any or both.
I have got, now, [illegible] things — flowers & mosses — [illegible], & [illegible] lichens & a few ferns.
In one of my morning-day visits for recreation, I was exhuming [illegible] & found it to be very different from the [illegible] in Ecuador. Thus I must [illegible] from the results of my examination. The [illegible] are attached to all [illegible], to their [illegible], rather about the thick-shaped [illegible], & not only to the walls of the cells, but to the external angles. Look in your [illegible] & see if I [illegible] an exceptional [illegible]. [illegible] trees [illegible] by the [illegible] which, master or servant, is most [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cases. Upon [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible], which at least may be kept you in the way of exchange. As I have written before, don't be liberal of them to those who will vote them a nuisance.

9th Last night was a great fermentation in the heavens, the Turtle was removed into our hemisphere, & this morning a little ray of the bright sun kissed my face. During the night, in the process of his rolling & tumbling, he continued a constant roar, like that of many heavy bodies rolling over stone pavements. And this beautiful morning! Delightful country! Isn't it? After "La comte" — lunch, I started for a final ramble in "El Monte" — but didn't make much of it. The rain came on me before I got out of the "Capital," & I had to return. In the descent I witnessed an interesting phenomenon — a rainbow the highest part of whose arc was some 20 or more degrees below my horizon, & was cast on the plain below.

In the process of cleansing the coffee, water is passed through it. This water, as well as that for domestic use, is brought in stuccoed canals a distance of some hundred of yards. In the lower parts of this canal, I have witnessed a phenomenon reminding me of a subject that was under discussion at one of the meetings of the Academy, which I attended in your absence. This was, the flow of fluids, in pipes, in jets. This canal is about six inches broad, & the water, about an inch deep, in the lower portion of the canal, always flows in jets: or rather waves, of unequal length. Why it does not in the higher parts, I have been unable to discover. At the same time, in the whole length of the canal, the currents are crossing from side to side, forming chords & triangles: thus:

Nouvelle Sophie, Nov. 17th. I returned here some five or six days ago, & have made an excursion to the Swallow, climbing from the base upward. Tomorrow, I mean to go to the top & collect downwards as far as I can. I picked up some nice things, but account (some of them) in number. I don't think I shall stay here more than about a week longer. Then, a short time at Nimanima, & I will be ready to adopt some plan of an inland trip, or a voyage round to the north side. I lost two knives at Josephine one of which I miss very much. It had a magnifying lens in the end of the handle. I got it of Bremeker right at your favorite cutlers on Washington St. If you will get me here a dozen of the same kind & send on here, to New York, (don't wait for Boston vessel) you will oblige me, much. I don't know but I ought to send for more paper. I don't know now what better to do than have it sent to Santiago, to Babcock "Cousins & Co." If I go to the north side, I can order it sent round. I have got light enough to work upon for some time. You might send me a dozen or two of pens more. I have had no letter since I was in the air, but hope to get some on the return of the messenger who will arrive this, tomorrow, I hope. I am truly anxious to hear something more than happens to me, that have been, now, nearly a year waiting a passage from Boston. Pray, don't fill up your letters & waste your valuable time in giving me advice as to what is best for me to do. If you were here & knew as much as I do about the weather, the roads, the state of vegetation, &c &c. I would receive, very thankfully, any counsel you might offer. But, you may rest assured that I shall do the best I can, while I stay. If my health continues as good as at present, I shall remain to make a considerable collection of it. I don't much care how you answer my queries; & I can recall a number of which you have not given me (or I have not received) your answer. At first, hereabouts a delicate flavor you seem to enough &

sticky with unpleasant hairs. The ovaries are 4-ovulate only; in this respect resembling Lacistema, some what, but it must belong to Ovaginaceae. I have but a scanty supply of fruit (immature) & the follicles are long & slender & seem to perfect but one seed. I examined one, but once very thoroughly. It worked as if it might be plunged at maturity. I think the radicle is superior — the cotyledons long & narrow. All the genera in Endlicher are said to have "ovula plurima".

Since I returned from Fort Mims I have been at the house of the father of the Mayor & can better understand how he can tolerate so much dirt. He was evidently raised to it each under the paternal roof. The old man was taken prisoner in the Napoleonic wars & can speak some english. He is within three miles of his house has been there 25? years & has never been here! He & wife go to Mobile once a year to buy their few necessaries & nowhere else as it would seem. He is not one of the go-aheads who just hits his own genius neither makes enjoyments — has a small farm & some — which only his own manages. & makes just enough for him from hand to mouth.

I enclose a specimen of creole French. It is from an old lady in St Domingo: but it is essentially the same here. She will inform a French friend to one another but a great deal. The conversation is in the creole dialect.

Well I have made a talk of considerable length not very botanical however

Kind regards to Mrs G. also to Mrs & Miss Blanchard when you meet them

Ever yours

Chas Wright

Nouville Sophie Nov. 22 dy 1859

Your opinion of Olga Pinati [illegible] I knew it was just [illegible] I wish you had told me [illegible] Ah! Dear Grisbach just [illegible]

In the list of Rubricaires you draw mean to say that it includes the whole of that family. If so there must be a considerable number of them in the record but I think you ought to have kept this Time. There are two or three Upper Masters, [illegible] there. I wish I could have adopted your suggestion to obtain specimens as I cannot now from the note to view in all cases how the flowers appear to the eye

of the year now is your first? I believe I have got the list in for me. It is very likely too that the award list will display the different places

As a contrast to the long passages your letter has given me pray turn to other matters and write under the date

10th October 1871 from Bridport (Dorset) "May I beg you to send me the number and date of the publication in which Mr Gordon's paper on the Diatomaceæ appeared? I should like to procure it while I have the opportunity of reading it at home" (Letter to Mr Gordon)

I suppose you think I am an inveterate grumbler & perhaps I do find more trouble than is necessary but I sometimes grow impatient at not getting letters as soon as I expect them & as I cannot possibly at any day else I make you the occupant of Then. Well I somehow or somehow else imagine your patience is a good substantial fellow & can bear a little grumbling from a poor fellow who often feels in a mumm[illegible] about [illegible]. I have seen you the nothing worse boring than I am in my passion. Now in short I have brought you back to the communicable state

I sometimes wish I had made my arrangements so as to have got along as well with the general collection as to have spent this winter on the coasts for seaweeds & shore land plants but it is now so late that it is not worth while. And as to the examination for varieties — how is it? Will it be as the selection of animals more a tribute to science than a remunerative business Unless they sell well there will be small inducement to multiply specimens. The same queries may be made with regard to Diatoms. I think cultivation wants By and by the ferns & general collection won't avoid me or turn me as it has once or twice all the year and I shall have more leisure to attend to these things

But my account would be incomplete if I omitted to say that they are likely to please me. Mr Bentley tells me frankly that Europe has not hitherto been remunerative. I will not however despair and I think at present we will continue — but I trust you will in this case.

In this last letter you say nothing of that ship there was to sail from Boston recently. I suspect when the Fern comes that by your 'non est' Boston is a vile Fucking place. Well if they come after I am gone and we both I shall claim another copy.

21 September Last night a fatal accession which will be felt by the Endeavour the finest one at present in the Belle Alliance Beards a species of Cantharellus with hysterium unique but leave the Entozoa retained by a wings under it & some more specimens of the Dictyonaceæ plants mentioned in my last & some little bits mosses & hepaticæ Sing after tomorrow I go to Cuba & this is my intention to spend a short time in reading & then to Jamaica I doubt if a protracted stay there will be profitable

28th Cuba. I arrived this morning & find your two letters of Nov 7th & 9th. I have got the money & Cook & Co at par though the exchange is in my favor — but for that I don't care as, to get the money at any rate is a great accommodation. Glad to hear that the second envoi of plants was as far as New York — would have been gladder to know they are dry. — You may save the £1. for me — don't send it yet

I omit stir up Fenet because I can't understand him nor he me and nothing can be done in these sciences matters through such interpreters as we have to use in the mountains Sorry you didn't follow my advice promptly As I said a letter from some scientific man in France would do more in my opinion than anything else. This is another instance of your advice being useless — coming too late. Now I don't know when I shall see you. He could in time do a great deal to clear up doubtful points if he could be fairly

started & I dont see why he wouldnt soon become interested in it as well as in minerals, fossils &c

In my answer to Rodyer's I told him if my acct was allowed. I supposed it would have to lie in the Treasury till I returned unless he could rig some purchase to get it as I left no special Power of Attorney for that purpose

I wrote to Lindley a long time ago but have no reply

I have set a man to watch for ripe fruit & the Hyperic I believe I have noted every thing in your letter that needs remark And now I have on my way hither filled one of your desiderata for which I hope you will be duly grateful I found it a Linnaea — I've got the other & true name now — Shaw! — Boerenia — & where do you suppose? In a garden On my former visit I collected some plants from it It is at the Hacienda "La Fraternte" belonging to Mr Riboss (French pronunciation I dont know the orthography) (I have not examined it. I picked the bits in yesterday evening & dried them & stuffed them in my pocket book. They wont make magnificent specimens but they will give you the handsome flowering ones I enclose also a little more & better pr. of the plant of which I sent you a scrap in flower

And a word at in the future. A good friend - Mr. Brussler has a brother-in-law at or near Mayaxi in the service of Govinte. whom he has interested in my favor both as [illegible] that I should go Hon. Mr. Bradford also thinks well of the place. In order to go to Hotguin I should have to buy a horse which would take a large part of the money sent. & I am a little fearful of venturing away among those low rancheros & arrieros with little money & on the other hand it is very dangerous to be known to have any worth killing you for & this even from all accounts is not very large. Well. I'll go for a short time to Hidantepic

& thereabouts till I can determine what I will do
Alongside of Ruscus I might have said that I found at
St Sophie a Rutaceous shrub or bush with a single
capsule & a single seed — at least, in all the specimens
I examined & some appeared good, this was the case.
Eaton's Enumeration surprises me. I was comforting my-
self with the belief that I had got nearly all the ferns when
I see there appears 70 species of the former collection lacking in
mine. Some of them I suppose are in the 4 bales that have
by this time reached you. But when I am to get the rest is
more than I know. I remember some from Gibraltar which
I have not found this time, but my utmost efforts at recollection
do not give me more than 3 or 4 that I expected to find there
& did not see. About the beginning of the year I think
I shall have ready another lot ready to send off. It will contain
the gleanings from N. Y. the coll. of St. Sophie & what I may
get from this time onward at Annamina &c. While at
St. Sophie I might have made some efforts at saving
tortoises — but it is a new field. & somehow I always feel
a propensity to procrastinate any new enterprise & besides
it looks like a kind of guess-work, for I might go on
weeks & collect lots of slime from the bogs & rocks & it might
turn out that there isn't a solitary tortoise in the whole
Hova empire & so known. Well some day I'll begin & send a little
to Bull. for examination & if I have good luck I shall be en-
couraged to persevere.

I shall look impatiently for the next letter as to the
condition of the 4 bales — but I shall be so situated that
I'll get it pretty promptly

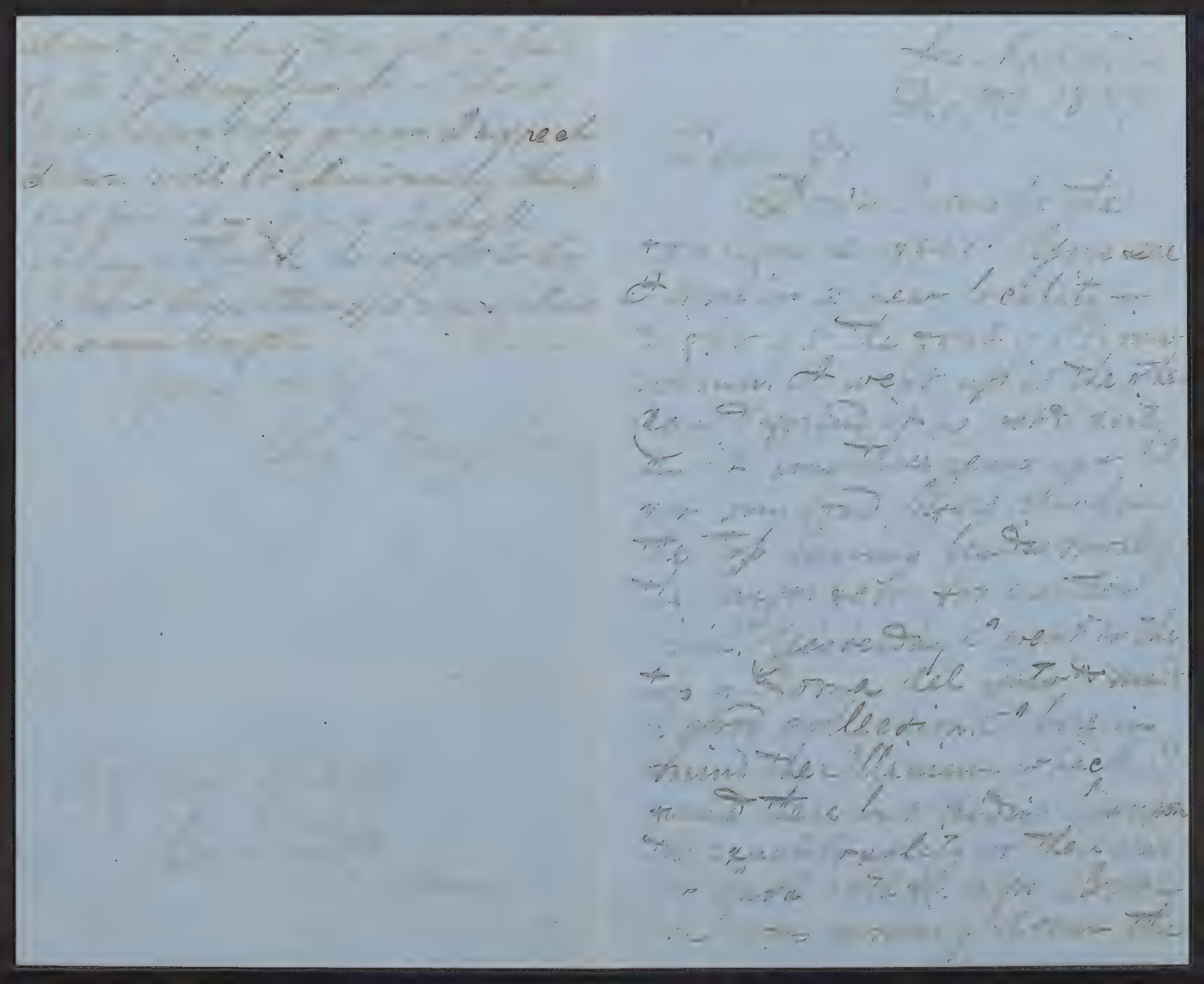
Yours truly Thos Meehan

P.S. I hope Mrs G. is better & that you will find
time this coming winter to run down here & take a peep at
my Brassias grow. Thos Pringle & Mr Henry Leavitt
(as interpreter)

You may have just as much talky-talky with Mr Venut as you please. I hope you will make a post-rate collector of him

L. M.

P.S. Swiss are here. They will be at home



[illegible]

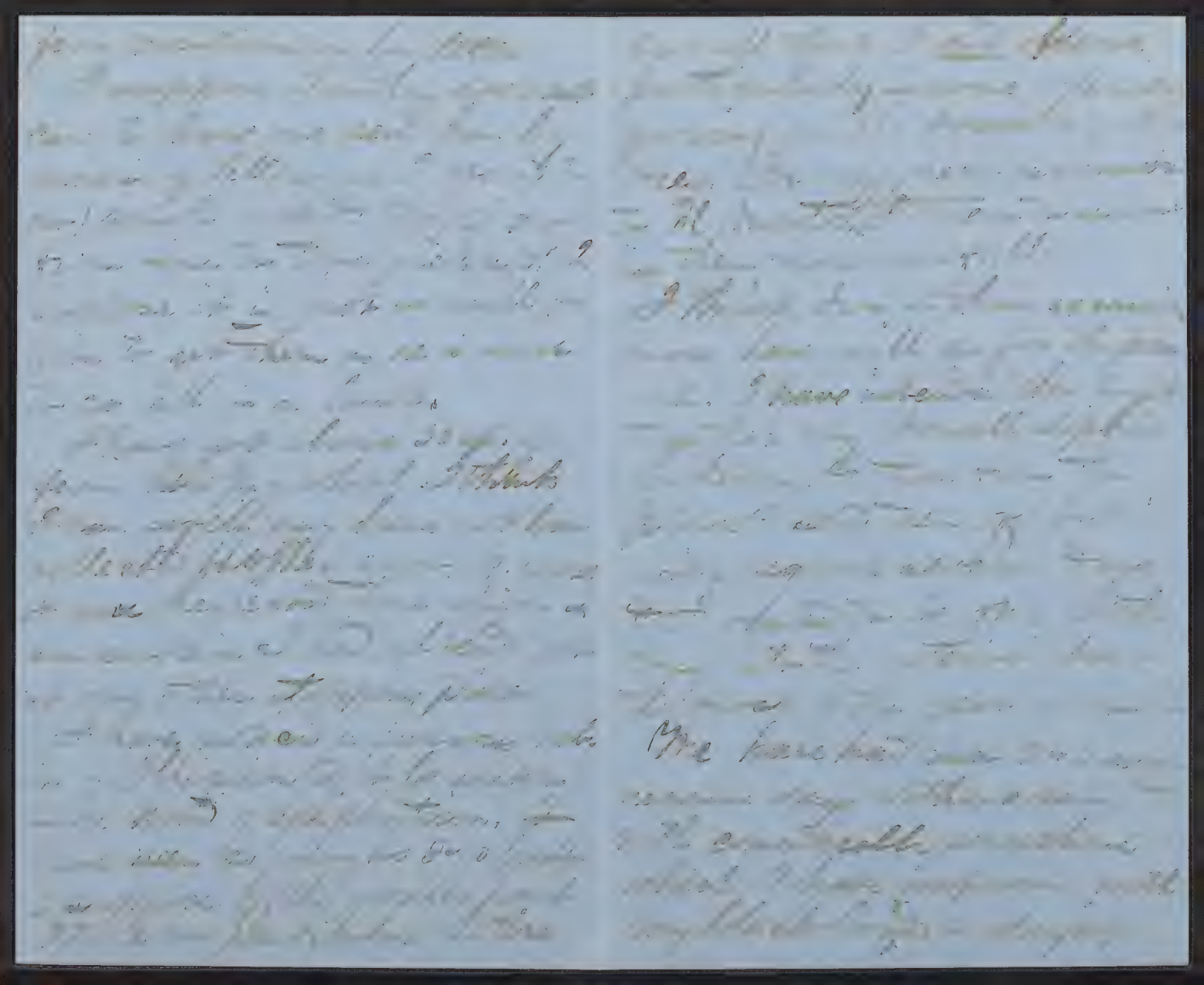
[illegible]

[illegible]

2

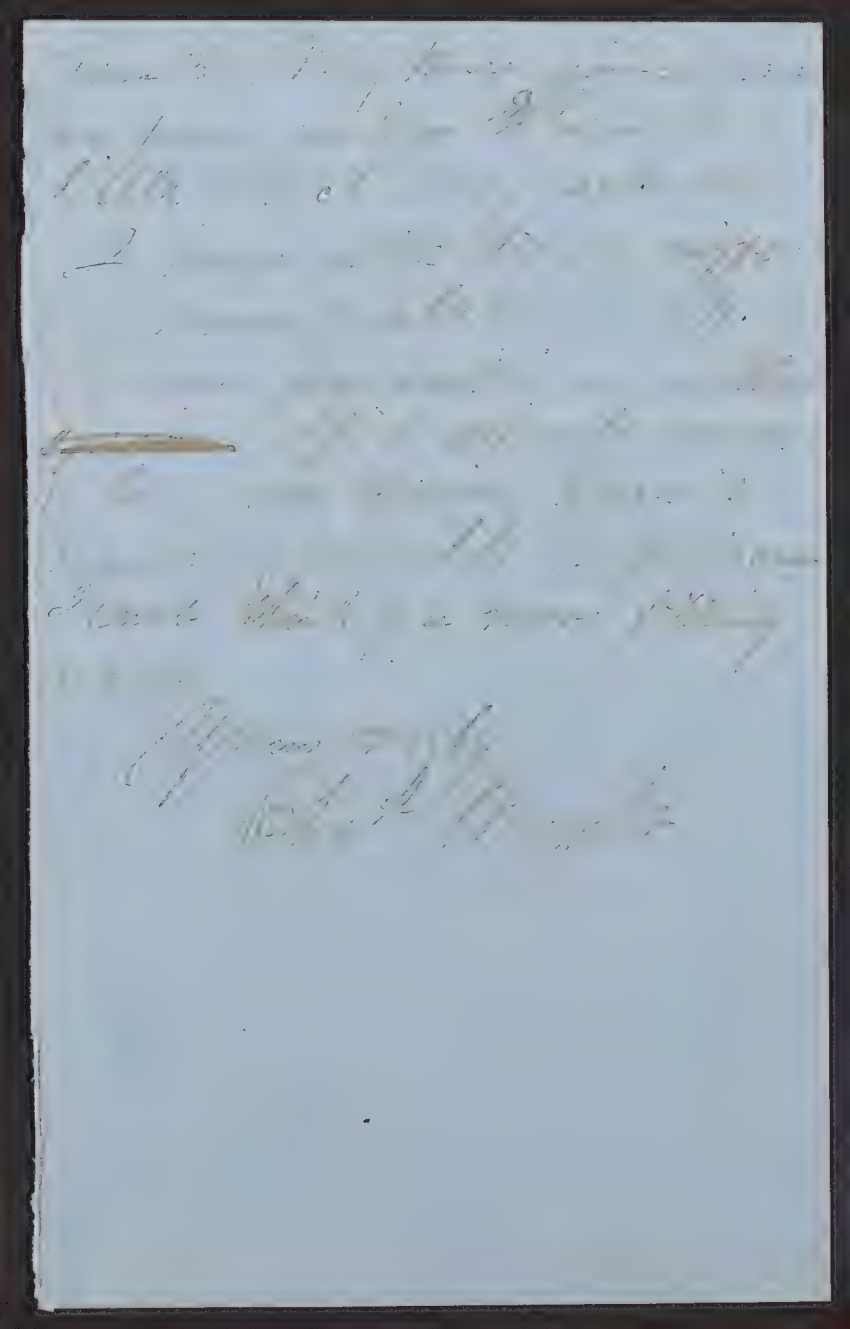
26th Feb. 1867

[illegible] a
[illegible] Christmas
[illegible] the depth of
I do not want to quit
[illegible] in the States on the
contrary his transactions
[illegible] him constan-
[illegible] to [illegible] in the Company
[illegible] the payment of
[illegible] here. If
[illegible] he will at any
time to accommodate me
advance me money to be
[illegible] in the States by [illegible]
[illegible] which I hope I will
not
[illegible] get [illegible] of
[illegible] have [illegible] money



La Madelina Dec 2

I have looked at the Gen. Chief



Stage Ne Cuba
Feby 10th 1860

Dear Sir

At last there books have come
The Maria has come for but the paper
hasn't. There is some comfort in that for
I may give Paulo a share of her share
for tobacco & the night dress. I'll bet you
both ever I should have it at last but it comes
when I am away, in fact — and I bet inches two
slow, & am afraid I shall be — dead
& perhaps [illegible] I wonder if I want
to [illegible] There is few hours in the 24
say 24 hours when she has her nights, eight in
& the two paper-sticking out and both of each
day & her petticoat. The reason why the nights
will come [illegible] I can't tell but I
[illegible] accounts for it
[illegible] I have sent down late in a canary
[illegible] & the [illegible]
[illegible] I gave to him. They & towards the night I
go to Guantanamo thence [illegible]
[illegible] I left Cuba [illegible]
[illegible] I go by boat to [illegible] I expect
I will [illegible] I go [illegible]
before. I go [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] what will be [illegible] I [illegible]
news. Oh, Belle [illegible]
[illegible] I've met with [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Monte Verde Jan 14th 1860

My Dear Dr.

The night of the 11th I came to Guantanamo on the boat & the next day here. I am installed in my old quarters On my way hither I took [illegible] Cheyenna acaulis plant & a Nasturtium which I could not resist the Temptation of saving. The latter like others of the genus has a weedy habit & grows in wet places along the road. I have also saved some new mosses & the like—but I done go in the woods which I very much want to do for my extraction?! Left to collect fruit of my Hymenocallis tree last June "in nubibus" as well as I can understand him the fruit fell abortive though I know I left a plant of good looking [illegible] pods on the tree. I find also a small bundle of dried plants which I suppose had been sent to Nouvelle Orleans [illegible] to go—day after tomorrow. I hope We have ashely winds with showers & so cool that I put on my woolen undershirt & cloth coat to go forth.

[illegible] it that Van den Bosch has a Hymenocallis Wrightii from Nakodoches which Dr Torrey seems not to have discovered to be new?

In the specific description of Nemesia 4th line you have "semipollicaris" & "pollicaria". The termination of both should be "es" I suppose. In the next line you have a lot of neuter adjectives which should be "us". In Vicia Ludoviciana the corolla is said to be late (lacte) purpurea In your table about the ovule of Symplocarpus you have

made a blunder of some sort

I have had the follicle of an apocynaceous? plant hanging in my room here for the last 7 or 8 months & on making an incision in it this morning (16th) the milk flows freely. It was collected when they cut down the woods at La Perla. I don't remember the exact date.

Nouvelle Sophie. 18th Jan 1859 This morning the [illegible] yesterday there remain [illegible] flexible crossing is [illegible] and I [illegible] under of my pencil [illegible] began for a portion [illegible] excursion but in passing through some savanas yesterday I was disappointed in finding absolutely nothing. However in a little geographical book lately [illegible] by the summer is same as the rainy season & I remember in crossing the same little savanas in September the vegetation was much more promising. I have been wishing to open some of the seeds pods of the year in Sneas the coast & I believe I had better do it now I will however ask further information when I arrive in Cuba—day after tomorrow probably

I shall send you the stipe of a flower palm one of the flabelliform group which deposits layer upon layer of a corky network connects with the petioles of the fronds. You will then have two one which I sent home on my former visit—though you neglect to answer my queries on the subject of the different kinds of wood which I collected. I am sorry I know were [illegible] necessarily losing the labels but the others I would like to know what was done with them—whether the palm among them would answer your purpose—with thanks planning for more. However at some time when it is convenient I shall try to send you some of a larger species. Again when I was here before I sent you several scraps of plants—Mentzingia

[illegible] the series of [illegible] Linnaea—began with the [illegible] one to a single petal;

for [illegible] all these I have received not the slightest [illegible] I know you are busy but methinks when you are writing you might in a lady-like word acknowledge the receipt of them—or make no further remark. I can't always recall by the date of my letters which you commonly mention whether any one or which contained specimens—as I have [illegible] when telling the receipt of them I specify [illegible]

[illegible] first a clever little pear like [illegible] & was then [illegible] Mr. Graham the surgeon of the Hercules was an eye-witness, so you may set this down as a fixed fact. She capt a Brazilian in a vessel bearing letters according to his account but the owner of the slaves was a Portuguese & I suppose understand him. If England & the government want to stop the slave-trade let them send Spain a thrashing or take from her this island

Cuba 21. Well Mr. Paton we got [illegible] for the stipe of the palm in question & [illegible] shall have to defer it till some other time. I came to Cuba yesterday & today I put up my plants in 5 tubs something more than a foot in depth. But I am just too late for the Linda Stewart unless I send the plants by steamer to Queenstown or hire a cab to take tonight to complete his cargo. There is another bark here the Main (which didn't bring the papers) but I don't know when she will sail. Last night I had some talk with a Mr.

R. L. Phipps who has traveled over the Savanas & he says this is the best season to visit them. But he also that there is never any thing on them. In what respect he considers this the best season I neglected to enquire. He is no botanist evidently

I received Gulbrants papers in the new mosses I sent you a small specimen of the Mastodon I mentioned above

23 This morning I took a walk as far as the woods about two leagues distant. I found many plants not included in my collection some in flower, there is yet a good many with neither flowers or seeds. Which "we dont care so much about". I may gather them at some future day

Jan 24th I have just got your letter of Dec 18 (I got the latter one of 25 some days ago) for which am in. I anticipative take off in part the cargo of my grandmother above. The plants I am about sending will probably supply most of the cactus sorts of the former list. "I wish can that queer fruit be this you sent?" See above top of preceding page. I wish I could find matter of interest calculated to make Mrs. G. laugh I think it would do her good. I doubt whether any pictures are calculated to attract her or you to the islands. — I am just now in a little perplexity about my "licencia" — the permission which every one citizen or stranger has to possess in order to travel from place to place. It ex, ired the last day of the last year & I was in the country & now I want a new one for the present year. the little cuss "Bonitano" always his shoulders & spurs Spanish for this & for me to get the slave of it. Just now my good friend Mr. [illegible] is lame with a sprained ankle & he would go with me & have the matter all straightened but it is too late to do any thing to-day

The hotel is a little purgatory; in some things worse than Josephine's. $2.00 per day. I may get the business straightened up today by the landlord

There is an opportunity which I did not know yesterday of sending by the Mallet which brought me the books & I shall go down by & by & take them aboard if it will be late. Just now I am awaiting the return of the landlord who went out with the intention of arranging the matter of the Licencia

2½ P.M. Well this day to all intents & purposes is gone. My landlord has not returned but I am hoping that he may do so before long. In the meantime I am trying to get my plants through the Custom house with. I have got the consul and a pinch of ——— He cant talk English much like a parrot. Nobody but common sailors ever think of applying to him in any matter of difficulty — he is always expected to help them back & forth. He is a disgrace to our government never went for any thing to be a common sailor from which he has managed (the Lord knows how) to get the post of consul here

Well perhaps I'll be able to do something tomorrow. The reception almost beyond endurance to be confined here in this manner

25th. The "licencia" affair is still unsettled but I am promised assistance tomorrow. If I had had possession of it today I would have asked help from one who I believe would get me out of the difficulty but the "pozadero" insists on keeping it. It has come to the point & is kept there why I know not. If I do not get satisfaction tomorrow I'll make a fuss Dont you deny me my coupons. This little stoppage will reduce my resources to the paltry $25—00.00 to say nothing of the inflation of money

27th yesterday I got my discharge — permitting me to return to Guantanamo. Instead of that I have sent it there to be exchanged with I go to the perhaps to Philadelphia to operate the invalid corps. I could not do better. It is a great convenience to have with me. I can repair damages & other incidental expenses may [illegible] during the present month to the tune of $50 or thereabouts. I have money enough to buy a horse — which I [illegible] & some $15 more as soon as convenient. Reporting to Wm B. Allen, Novelty Works, N.Y. [illegible]

I shall have occasion to write again with a few days probably & then I hope I shall be in better spirits & better business.

Yours truly

[illegible]

Matamoros Feby 2nd 1860

Dear Dr. ——

For a month past & more I seem to have had a run of ill luck. I have written to you already most of the particulars I then passing through Saltillo. I should have waited & exchanged there my licencia, where it was issued, for a new one. But my friends & I soon thought we could just as well be trained at Cobre. I have explained the mixed haste makes waste: I sent it on in a letter asking to have a more comprehensive one issued. Well in order to improve the interval I came to Cobre & collected some plants there during four days & then came here. The evening of my arrival Mr. Hadden sent in for my things & the next day every thing was brought out but my press & green plants!! which remain there to mount & dry. It is queer what pains some people take to misunderstand their trust. There is very few (green plants) there & no great loss. In my rambling about Cobre I run against a bush of Agave which has given me a swollen & inflamed knee & now I am limping about with the right leg under the weather. There will now be a chance of going to Monterilla till the 11th & I may not get my licencia in time to improve that chance though I think I will. Talking today about my plans with Mr. B. he advised me to buy a mule & hire a negro then strike off in the direction of Mapimi. I told him I could not do it now for want of money. The very utmost I could afford now to do would be to buy a horse for myself

He intimates that my want of means need not prevent me taking this step though he was hardly explicit enough to authorize me to ~~make the~~ do it unless some thing further is said. I feel very reluctant to ask him for further accommodation though I have no doubt he would oppy it if I should. I have only about £120 & I shall have to spend a little of that before starting I am sure I don't know when the balance (or £110) of £230 is gone — I believe I wrote you that I shipped by the P.M. Thinker my last lot of plants & paid the freight

11th. — I came to town (Cuba) yesterday & found my plants just when I had lost them & the ship gone The merchant promises to ship them on Monday. While I was at Bilantropia Mr Bradford went to town Mr. Cisneros the surveyor & spoke of my going with him. So I have come to town to make ready. I have bought a saddle & other trappings & have a horse in view. I also got me a hammock by Mr. C's advice. He has some friend who set out for Mayari on Monday (day after to-morrow) & I want to go with them. It is however uncertain whether I can find a man to take my luggage for any reasonable sum unless some one can be met with who is about to return to Mayari Otherwise I may have to wait a week till Mr. C. goes himself. He seems a very friendly man & from his extensive acquaintance in the interior can greatly facilitate my researches & contribute much to my comfort. I shall on this excursion have access to the savannas & the high pinales which from the description must be strikingly like the open pine wood of the southern States. I hope I got Eaton's letter returning the little ferns. You intended to send me some laconic message on the inside of the flap but I am utterly unable to make out more than the first two words which convey no idea & give me no clue to the remainder

Tell Eaton that a description of ferns which depends on a definite number of pinna upon the length of the caudex (as he states these particulars in the case of Danaea) is a worthless one. These are as variable as the wind. It is rather too much to ask me to say the exact size of these things — the pinnæ themselves are watery enough

Mr. Bradford's boy has just brought me yours of the 24th ult. I have plenty of Hemionitis in the batch you will get next which will run the list up to 200 I think

I am glad to see that Berkley & Hanry had succeeded & never known it till now. That valuable information was probably in some one of those lost letters

Have you got any of the remaining £800. You write me once that you were about to remit a bill. but I don't get it. Either you get any of it

"I send now & then a blanket of Hep. & Mo. — any new" What does this infer from the word "now & then" Have they ever been sent in letters?

I have not heard of the arrival of the Big Otter which seems strange as the "bill of lading" seems to bear date of 7th ult.

Does Dipcot direct your letters to Bilantropia. He is in town & his family is here. He goes in the estate to superintend the harvesting of the crop & to ~~return~~ [illegible]

Thus far the current year I have run but little or [illegible] expenses. I hope when I get fairly clear of this disagreeable place I shall do better

I trust I this time you have got my last

letter written 1 or 2 to [illegible] the first money $150
through Rev. Wm B. Allen, Treas. Orphan Soc. Ky.
After I get ready I shall send again
by the first [illegible]

Nouvelle Sophie Feby 24/60

Dear Do

Hard at work the last few days eating oranges & fighting flea. I made a couple of excursions here but didn't collect much. It is rather dry. Today I start for Monte Verde. I hope then to be able to fit myself for the Mayari excursion. But I anticipate considerable delay. However there I shall find something worth collecting to repay my time.

I send you something for publication I want to contribute my mite to oust an old ass who wants to be sure at home if in Philadelphia — eating thistles. Get it into a democratic paper if possible — then it will not be supposed to be dictated by political motives. Try & get two or three copies of the paper — cut out the article & send it to me in a letter — for distribution among his friends here.

I shall get to M.V. day after tomorrow

Yours truly

Chas Wright

over

26th. Mount Verde. From N.S. I went to visit a nephew of Mr. Lescaille who lives on the opposite side of those Gaiallones I was [illegible] which I shall probably do at some [illegible] day

I staid one night at Josephina's. Dogs, cats, hogs poultry & dirt as before. Coming from there I missed my way but did not regret it as the road was good & I passed through those savannas by a different route. Absolutely nothing in them. It is pretty dry but the vegetation does not look parched. It is rather winter time & many are dropping their leaves. Tomorrow or next day I shall take a look into the woods to see what I can find here. I begin to believe that the spring or summer will be the best time for the interior but I'll go as soon as I can get ready.

I hope before I leave here again I shall have from you a list of the specimens of wood that you want so that I may send you them & throw the rest away to get rid of a parcel of rubbish which fills a rather unelegant in one corner of the room. Perhaps I will add some specimens of palm stems

I met at Mr. Charles Lescailles a Dr. Cotter who has had the same experience as I had for the first few months — has not received a single letter from the U.S. I am pretty well convinced that strangers' letters are opened & destroyed at least in many cases.

I hope to send this rather bulky letter by a vessel which sails within a day or two from Guantanamo to avoid any suspicion which its size might possibly create & to save .25 cents postage or more than you will be saddled with some to distribute the inclosures to their respective destinations. I shall ask Mr Henry Lescaille to allow me to have my letters sent to his address [illegible]. Since as it will probably be as easy for me to get them from here as from Cuba [illegible] Mr. Bradford is often from home & besides has a great deal of business of his own to attend to. So I say no more about it you may direct to him (for me) at Santa Catalina de Guantanamo. I believe he will interest himself in forwarding them. This P.S. will illustrate the saying that they contain the substance of a letter. You may however take it

as an item from a journal or diary

I was told in Baltimore that a notice of my doings here and of my projected excursion to Mayari has appeared in the Cuba papers I suppose Mr. Cisneros must be done it. I don't know what else to account for making me notorious

C. H.

27th Another fine day. We have clouds, breeze, dews, with little patches of sunshine intervening. I stop out now & then & pick from the coffee trees branches, more mature, they seem to be in prime condition. I have observed today several specimens of Hesperella on the coffee trees & one to-day fine large specimen with flowers & fruit & the largest I have yet seen was collected. another with Fr. Lily & Dudley Cave.

28th Upon notice my ferns in altitude gives 1811 as the most precarious & of 36 & 1811 & 1900 as the lowest. I here by height that then were not more than 20 or 30 species & about half the lowest set ferns of eight & twenty & about half the lowest set ferns of eight & twenty & about half the lowest set ferns of eight & twenty

North Pole March 15 1866

We are getting down a point of [illegible]
[illegible] from the east [illegible] of fruits
as P. winds, and [illegible] easily [illegible]. Many
of these plants were [illegible] from last year
[illegible] from the North. [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

ed (before) I have just now received a letter of Feby 5 from my brother. Your last is Jan. 24th. I am somewhat [illegible] hearing from you as I shall want [illegible] before I can get away on any important [illegible]

I hope you will let [illegible] up those fern drawings for some occasion. It seems to me simply ridiculous to attempt to exhibit the structure of a fern or palm by a cross section at any point & have a longitudinal section of either shows at perfectly & the whole of it. However it will [illegible] with my wife to unravel what it is.

I have sent Some Strips of the Dandy rolls to have about a foot long when first pulled. I examined several & found none much more than a foot long

It must have been in January that I wrote you to send me and thought W. B. Allen Woodly & Co N. Y. that is depositing with him — $150 which I could receive from Mr Bradford. I fear you have never received that letter. The one from my brother was forwarded by Mr B. from Cuba & I suppose mine from you have come to him since I left there more than a month ago.

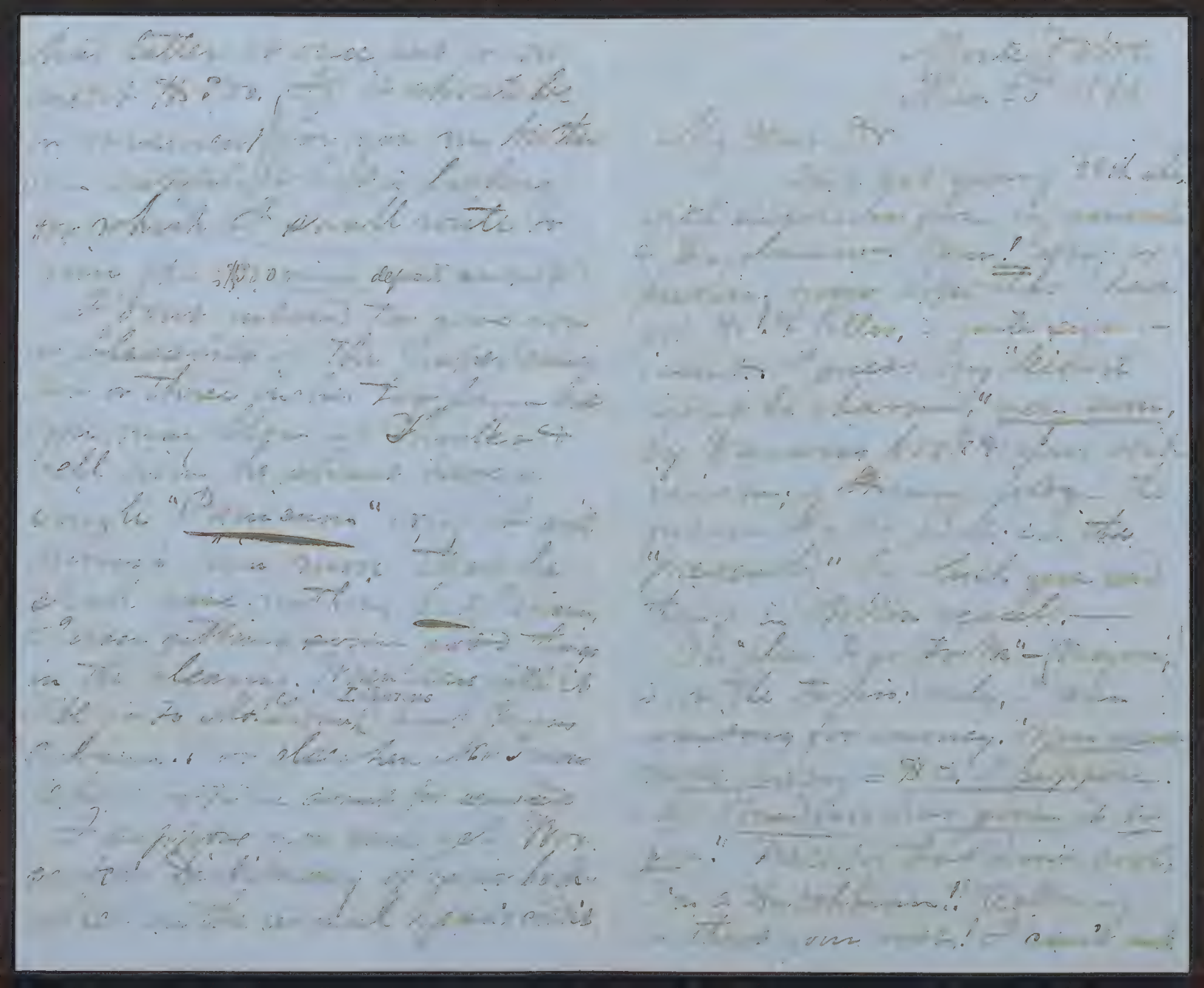
Mr Jackson here wants a gold watch & I was waiting for mending the Waltham one on account of the facility of [illegible] any broken part replaced and ready — on account of a real or supposed capability in the workmanship — every part being made by machinery as nearly exact. Could you contrive to send me one? Those with hunting cases are most used here. One of medium size would [illegible]

be [illegible] I might be a convenient way of sending me funds. Your Boston friends could forward it by [illegible] Captain perhaps.

I am writing again at Lindley's account of Chaille — since I notice another instance of — carelessness — shall I say? such as I have had occasion to object to in his preparation of my orchids. He says the style is simple, yet gives a figure with two long styles or at all events one [illegible] to the summit of the ovary.

[illegible]

I hope Mrs Gray is better & that you may find time next winter to [illegible] to us. I don't know [illegible] "graphic description of niggerdom & devil" will have a tendency to attract you here but I would be glad to see you here & show you over my hunting ground.



before this you
it. It was sent
to the Richard W. Tall
that well

send me four of his

If you have sent me money when you get

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Found on my table at the A.O. - with a note from
Wright. I.T. — June 1st 1860.

which I
mean to send as far as
New York by your name-
[illegible] I don't
know when he will go
but probably before long
— by the first good ship.
The methods are in duplic-
ate. You can send me a
letter to Lindley. Love to

Trade Sept 1st 1865

My Dear Dr.

I have just got yours of 15th. and from Mr Bradford but without a word of comment or remark. He had of course opened the letter but perhaps did not notice that part of it intended for him especially as the one addressed to me was uppermost. If he read it & then sent it to me without a line it is plain he dont want to be troubled with the business of which it treats — which I am somewhat inclined to suspect.

I heartily wish you had taken as much responsibility in this matter as you did when I asked for Medellis Urticas. — just done as you pleased. A certificate of deposit in Boston was sent at once, though not with real gentlemanlike readiness as I thought by Brooks & Co and a similar one would have doubtless equally available with it then or some time since.

Your advice "to have nothing more to do with the Sunday work" was quite unnecessary the lesson was so well learned in Liverpool. But you have but little idea of the difficulties against which I was working. Bread at $3.50 per day & hotel & nothing else to be had. Trying to get these things cheap & it was keeping coffee or tobacco or any

of the thing more or less intimately connected with the near tropics. I know you would be very sceptical about it. But what do these people — the most intelligent I know — know about fungi or dead plants. I am not at all surprised that you had to pay £5. more. I expected something of the kind — knew it was bit. You may safely bet all you are worth the same fellow won't bite me again.

Lately I have been dipping into Zoology — saving some bird or toad & picking up now & then some shells. But with him as with you things seem to be going at cross-purposes. He wrote me in Dec last that he had ordered to be sent me some bottles & the zoological apparatus which however has not come to hand. I am making new specimens of bird — not very handsome — but according to my skill — for want of it. They will serve him for comparison. You see I want to do some thing for science in general. Of course it is for my interest (pecuniary) to stick to botany But you know I am no pinch-penny — don't aim nor ever expect to be rich — wont get in a stew if a fellow cheats me out of an X & wont fret much if I can have any thing to do — even if it is not botany.

— send [illegible] from Loquat which has not yet put forth its [illegible] suspect it is Sterculiaceæ. I have [illegible] you collected it — a rare one I think at least about here. It has but 5 stamens (long) connected only at the base & the petals are similarly combined into a monopetalous? corolla (very hairy & [illegible] externally) Ovary 5-celled with axile placenta. Ovules numerous. Anthers long & ver- sus somewhat like Cucurbits

As to the sandarac of the pens you wrote as if you had taken possession of them as proprietor. In the other hand I took you them as a tribute to science from me. And in the first place I protest against a transverse division of them. I am then longitudinally into four parts — one of them is better than the whole for you can better see the structure. One will be for Gowsey one for Baton a third for Hooker & the remaining one for him who most need it. If these individuals are willing to give me some thing for them "I'll but it in my pocket" — the Dutchman says as to the price you mention — one or two and it would tempt me to the top of La Guinea for the one "packed" down on my shoulder. to say nothing of the other one rather inconveniently prickly.

I have entrusted to Mr Lyon, who leaves here soon, to be delivered to Dr Torrey, a few small plants, mostly orchids. You will get them in due time I hope

Yours ever

Asa Gray

Monte Rede
May 4th 1860

Dear Sir

From an expression in yours of March 15 relative to the payments & charges in N. York by "Westermann's custom-house broker," I infer that you suspect my motive in giving my things in charge to one of the "humbug worlds" was to save you the expense & freight &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. I know very well that house in N. York the smallest trouble about my things are in a manner ended. It was to save myself trouble that I took that step.

Books & Co. These two firms were those with whom I had done some business & with whom I was best acquainted. I didn't know but I might have as little success with others. So you see it was not a mere childish impulse that moved me. I had also reason to think the refusal of Sully to ship on the "vessel" Books & Co was a mere pretence. "Sour grapes" is but too common a case in such matters. Men can't all be successful collectors any thing in this country.

P.S. I had written the above in explanation of what you did not (as I thought) seem to comprehend of some of the difficulties I

"News" came out, besides many
new things, [illegible]
on a meeting of [illegible] to
Mr. L. They were quite stunned
in a hurry & the bills [illegible]
pasted out on the passages. I
suppose the Capt knew enough
about it to ship them properly
However there was some uproar
ality & the consequence was
that in addition to the duties
we had to pay a "mulcta" of
some 20-30 francs. That
[illegible] much additional
I have never been able to learn
whether. Next I saw of
the [illegible] me. We have
not seen each other since
[illegible]. I could have
gone to the [illegible] &

told [illegible] of the [illegible] which I must
do but to see the [illegible] to
ask the "what" "if" "why" &
the "wherefore" my little knowledge of Spanish would have
left me in the lurch & then
I should have "mulcta" me
again. It was exactly this
which made me curious
to "humbugery". I bagged
in the Calle Ancha & called "by";
then opening on his inquiring
look "Buen Dia" & two words
and they could turn [illegible]
[illegible] worth the commission)
in Spanish all at once. Then
applied to Sallé & Co. who
would not shipped them but
had to proceed [illegible]
& declined to ship on that

…ter when you get the [illegible] came late and I sent off yesterday via Meth… I send a note to you which you will probably get about the same time as this. Consequently, I have but little to say to…

I see under your direction I inferred from it [illegible] have money; I wanted it subsequently & for reasons which only Knew myself & still am [illegible] to explain. [illegible] took me somewhat aback was not so cordial as it had been & I was reluctant to ask him for any money. I do not know a deposit had really been made in…

…ing wrong in blaming [illegible] for it. He got nothing [illegible] his honest profits. He hardly [illegible] "pocketed" all the blame. [illegible] you do not such words [illegible] you thought worth saving as you went over them. It is now impossible for me to tell what [illegible] most interesting.

Does conduct possibly be anything libellous in my "blowup"? [illegible] was a beauty. I do not know as you read Tucker's letter. He says he "Knows nothing about putting off all"

[illegible] the
advantage in time to show that
I was indifferent to any such
little matter as that, exchange
&c. I have written frequently
[illegible] and made suggestions
[illegible] them you will do us
know
more to say. Recollect that it
[illegible] now [illegible] to
communicate in [illegible]
circumstances, with the
plans change. Just before con-
[illegible] the Assyrian trip I was
[illegible] point of giving to Bayard
[illegible] another direction
I hope you have not parted
with any quantity of the tickets with
"[illegible] Minute Tours Dictionary"
[illegible] them. It would be very difficult
[illegible] [illegible] to get

[illegible] [illegible] Black Mountain in Virginia or [illegible] Mountain in [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] It seems to me better
not to [illegible] a particular
[illegible] localities. It would involve too much
[illegible] to Cuba [illegible] Orizaba [illegible]
[illegible] to Guam &c.
[illegible] from "[illegible]" to "[illegible]"
[illegible] Now Gothic. Has yet gone
[illegible] from Josephus "Ramoth"
[illegible] judicial districts
which every body knows &
[illegible] are continually in use
in referring to localities as "Mt
Hymettus" "Ida in Ysteras or
Parnon &c. (Mt. Libanus [Mt. Taurus] [monte Libano])
How it is possible that of
[illegible] Rocks & [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] (3d) [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

New York

January 1st 1860

[illegible] the 7th March you [illegible] dollars [illegible] the [illegible] I had [illegible] in the same business. [illegible] more or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to direct [illegible] to Henry Lescaille [illegible] you had somebody in New York whom you could [illegible] I want it done. I wrote very plainly how you ought to proceed. Upon for what appears to

[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

Mobile Feb 17 1861

Dear Sir

Since my last I have [illegible] a line
[illegible] Palace [illegible] found a Lecturer [illegible]
[illegible] (simple) [illegible] dollars. I
found also plenty of [illegible] with
large [illegible] months ago. I [illegible] (Br.)
small [illegible] I did not [illegible]

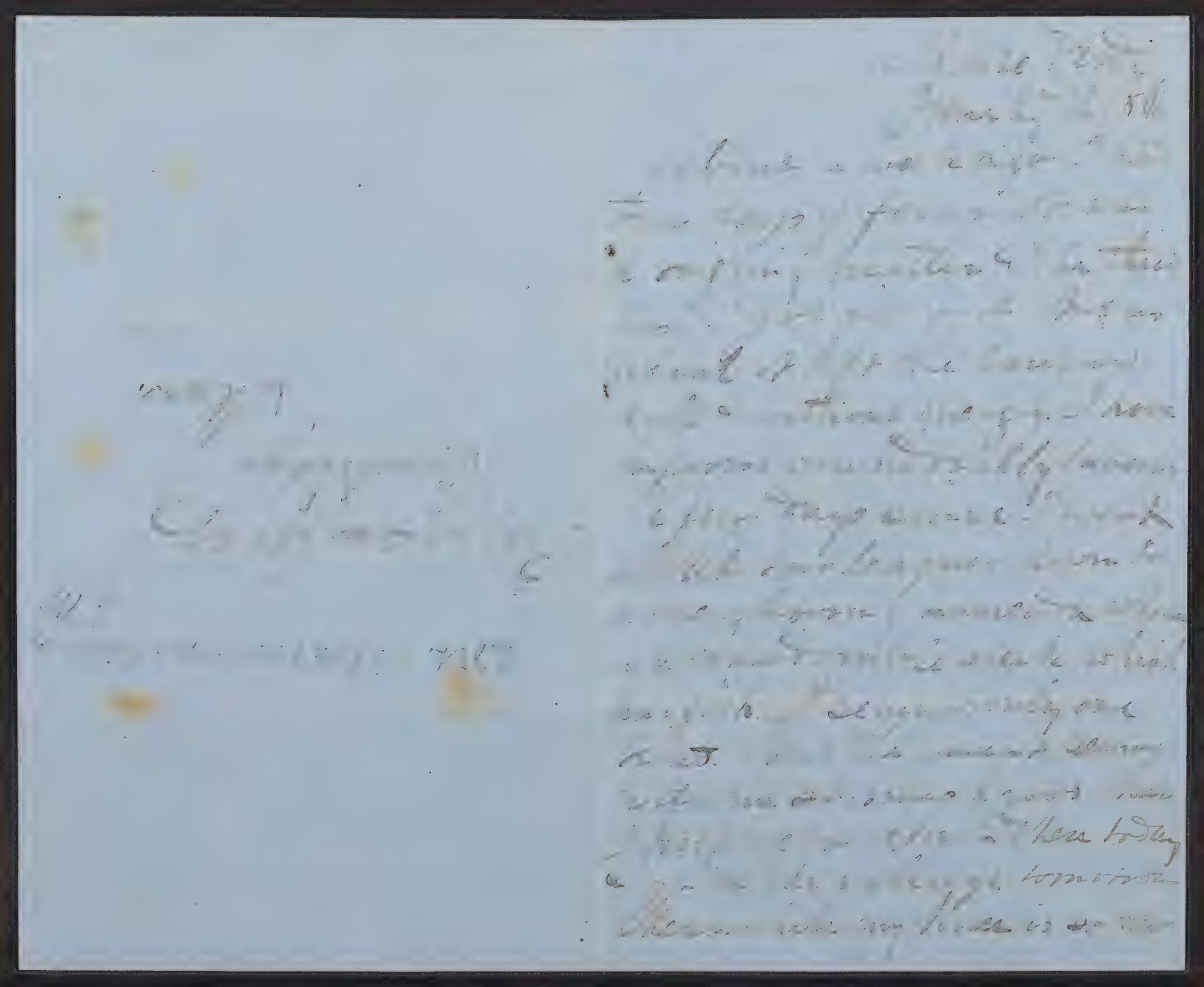
I sincerely hope the money business will be settled
before this reaches [illegible] to add
[illegible] the mail [illegible] you [illegible]
the money will [illegible] the proper way
I can account for your [illegible] that the N.Y. house
would remit [illegible] by running up [illegible]
would probably lie at Vicksburg till [illegible]
[illegible] Allen [illegible] he knew it was
[illegible]

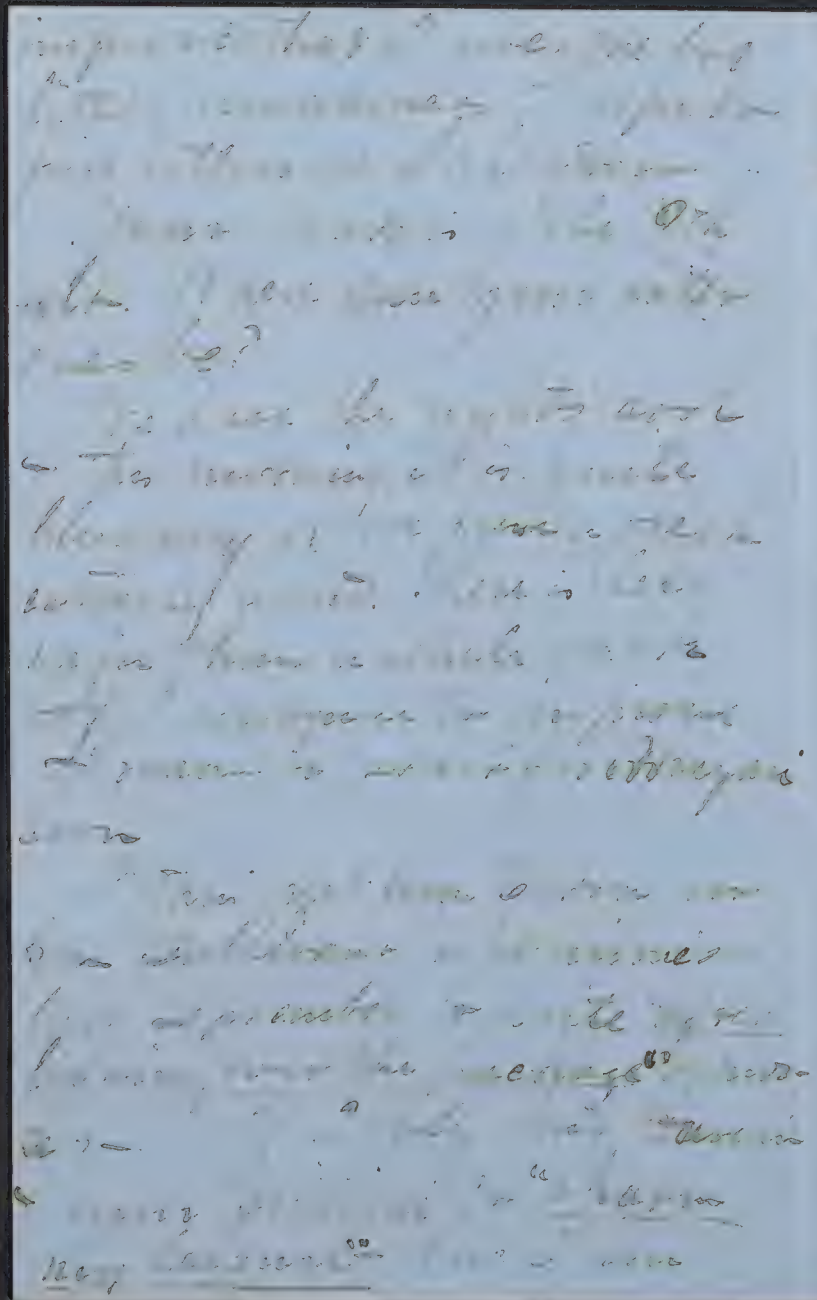
In your last you [illegible] the contribution
You had taken in a [illegible] letter [illegible]
[illegible] by
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
I hope [illegible] through the
[illegible]
I think by waiting 3 weeks [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] yourself open to the charge of folly - tally-ing! Caution is a good [illegible] but you seem to be cautious even when you are [illegible] by bad [illegible] has been washed out of your [illegible] I am living at the Hotel [illegible] However all things will come right [illegible]

yours truly

[illegible]





Monte Rosa
July 10th 1865

Dear Dr

I was almost in despair of hearing from you again your last previous letter bearing date May 9th when this came to hand & I feel from an [illegible] I am very [illegible] I would say I think something when I alighted upon Dod. Tiverton Well at any rate it's not a common thing, here for I never saw it before: it's no great blunder to suppose it Rutaceous with only Linday to study it with

Now dear Jane you must send receive letters from me much more frequent or via Washington, New York &c. Well you must know ere this that the money all came to hand but you may not know that I have made a considerable hole in it already & am not yet away on Khyber. I had hopes to be off about the first but you

ten Mr Lewis on whom I was depending for pilotage was detailed to superintend a working party sent to finish a bridge at Saltaden. Meantime I went to the seaside to collect plants & Mr L. leaving my horse in his care. While gone somebody stole my saddle & I had to buy another at $20. I gave $17 for an umbrella & nearly as much for shoes & everything else in like proportion. I was in debt to Mr L. when the money arrived so that on taking accounts I gave them a draft for about $175. I shall have to buy me another horse for I discovered plainly that it will be imprudent to set out with the one I have. I shall have to give well on to $100 for him. When a guide will cost me say $20 more so that by the time I reach Mazar I shall not feel rich — less danger perhaps of being robbed. But once at M. I shall be quiet for a time. I hope my expenses will not be great but I shall probably have to pay my board for there are no hotels. Khanikoff pays 4 tomans — nothing but Dabro — little stock-raising establishments. But when the money puts them on four days' ride will take me to Kuba or rode & at either place I can borrow money for present necessity. Perhaps I can get my horse by paying a portion of the price. I'll try. I think it will be well for you to send me another $100. I made a nice little collection of plants at the Harbor Quarantine & designed to spend one day between Saltaden & this place but the loss of my saddle broke into my arrangements.

I hope to get off this week or early the next.

Very truly yours

[illegible]

was probably [illegible] to me and is handy with a [illegible] in case such a thing likely — I lost this of my clothing my brother sent me Mr Gray by whom I sent you a letter came to Guatamala from Cobo with his chest of tools. He came up in the same train leaving his chest to be brought by the freight train. When he wanted his tools in vain he inquired for the chest — it was not to be found He worked with such tools as he could get while his business lay. But when about to return behold his chest emptied of the lumber room of Ducommun & Co. How is by your delay & my absence at Mazatan then broke [illegible] should become like in a Mexican which will be to blame? if they are lost.

Mayari 23d Arrived yesterday. No botany here — nothing but tall grass over which you can see the tops of the houses. My little stay the wood bear this trip will affect the weight of my purse more than that of my

Monte Verde July 14th /80

My Dear Dr

In your letter appended to Thatcher's circular you say I "complain bitterly" because the money dont come to hand. I remember very well what I wrote & dont think it deserves to be so term. But I think I have reason to complain bitterly because those bills dont come according to your promise Next time you are going to send me any thing presently pray dont tell me it is more than six or eight months before you despise it!!

To be bothering due for any thing for months with more or less anxiety what may become of it is not pleasant I am told that specie will be very requisite in Mexico. Now to assign definite sums, how many dollars with a little bit of a look out that

book might have been in my
eye. With so many causes
& disappointments it is quite
well concluded that I set out for
Mayaii day after tomorrow. I
get from here to Mayaii by
conveyance as far as Sagua de Yara
a mule-two days journey. Hence to
Mayaii two days more. I must hire
a mule for the first time I learn
that there are no carriages at Mayaii
nor between it & there but I
have no doubt they will be found
not far beyond. I must go and see
to my kit. I can for I cannot
get satisfactory information by en-
quiry. I have now what is said
to be a good horse — & he ought to be
for he has mounted I am told on
$150 consisting in losses in trading
— in being robbed & I dont suppose
any one could be found needy enough
to give me $100. C[ ] never was made
for a horseback rider. I told you
you that some time ago my saddle
a few days ago & did it. I am
[illegible] Woodville = 700 lives 400
& other things in like ratio — so
the money goes. However I have
something more than $100 in gold
& think I can venture safely among
strangers with that sum. I have
thus far found friends & expect to
meet with them — no results
sent from Manzanillo, all
I said mostly = bean peas & other
garden seeds also dahlias. The
ship unloaded at Cuba agreeably
Cienfuegos to which was
sometime gone & today, only after
long search & inquiring where
there are none to be had. Because
it would not fit. Shoes & hats, groceries
sugar or coffee or anything else
strictly connected with the
staple interests of the country it

collection. I have received nearly
of about $20 within three or four days
I have a boil which hurts the
saddle — else I should go today
to the final — 2 leagues distant. I can
see it on the crest of a pretty high
range of hills. It is said to be open
but it depends from one in the situ-
ation which it occupies. There
is a large savanna between here
& Icaba which I propose next to
visit. Then I can soon decide what
course to take. You must not be sur-
prised to see me in early autumn —
Vegetation all along the road is
very rank & rare also. I believe I
have stumbled upon the best season
for my trip — There is no inn here
I eat at the house of Don Elias Vidal
to whom I had an introductory letter
but his house is full filling for his
lady * (today - yesterday she was about)
ill with fever (it is not 18th
inst (she has had 3 pair twins).
I sleep in my hammock in a new uniform room, this
you would call my accommodations
comfortable. I dare say if she had

* today - yesterday she was about

to inhabit [illegible] at present. The mail leaves [illegible]

Very truly
Yours
Chas Wrights

* (Mentira! La Señora no está
pariendo todavia

Hayani-abayo
May 1st 1860

[illegible] Hist[illegible] Dr

I [illegible] while [illegible]-ing [illegible] for [illegible] or [illegible] by reading [illegible]

Lindley the only book I have. But I am continually stumbling over three greek abominations, amphitropal, monotropal, diatropal, camptotropal, campylotropal, orthotropal. Such things are fit only for Dutchmen who are raised upon endless duplicato-reduplicated dalian language. I have some faint hope that I see with Dutch sight and upwards. As to Anatropal oftentimes I have thought I had seen foot head towards feet in the air: when presto, on the next page perhaps, I meet him with head erect stiff as a grenadier. Exhibitropal does show himself off. Tremendous enough to speak for

an occasion. That the terminal bud were enclosed in a yellow pair formed an flowers; corolla I got plenty yesterday. I took pains to go to a [illegible] at M.V. with little nitches of leaves that I have not found in fl. I have plenty now. When I am done with the pinal I go to the prairies. I have little doubt the vegetation is in good condition for we have rains every day & live within earshot of the thunder. Three days [illegible] noble had no rain

Yesterday I made [illegible] my last trip to the pinal. I found a good many new things & some desirable specimens—as fruit &c. of oak. One I count make out to [illegible] Thymeleaceous shrub—a little bit of a bush 2 ft high. Among other things I got plenty of a fine palm. Stems must be [illegible] than they are bulky—especially when they have

authorize me to suspect that I comprehend him through I am far from being confident about it. I have no sort of idea what Campylotropal (Reduced) means. Campylotropal (Conspicuous) means some sort or degree of crookedness.

It does seem to me that a Botanist of ordinary inventive powers who understands this subject might contrive some terms which would be understandable for the several positions of the ovule, seed & embryo. I have never been able to get these terms through my hair or at least to keep them there any longer than I have the figures in view.

I have just come across another Antitropal, which has shaken to the end of the ive nails the semi-belief expressed above that I knew what it mean. For instance: Take Convolvulaceae. The embryo is said to be antitropal. Now from the terms & figures used to describe the embryo to be placed at right angle to the [illegible] I cannot find it. Then, take Plantaginaceae. Can any one form the same opinion from the figures there?

I have come upon another tropal — homotropal & what can it mean as applied to the ovule of Menispermum. Again another — heterotropal — bah! Botheration

5th. I was weak I am here. I have made but three excursions — the first to the last — the two others in the same direction. Both the latter I made good collections, yesterday I got a full load without gaining the final. But I was on foot & it is two leagues & up hill besides over a terrible [illegible] road.

I venture on horseback. It will likely be my last. I must have collected yesterday six or seven hundred specimens. Lots of new Rubiaceae turn up. Some composites. You will remember a Rubiac. I sent you from N. Y. of which I remarked

big dish. Ten of us sat round—
not at the table—it was too
small for that. There were five
plates & ten spoons (iron) Not a
knife nor fork. I never got an
entire plate & my claim was not
contested. Each one helped the viand
with the spoon & fingers in the direct
fashion. In his appetite
I was no laggard in the work.
The food tasted well enough—what
mattered the modus operandi of
despatching it — If you have
read of the Rio Grande & Texas near
San Diego you know. The soil
of Baya del Rey is apparently the
same. Everybody & everything
has a deep brown tinge
Four or five great lazy lubbers
lounge about all day or pay a
little attention to hogs & cattle
A potato patch joining the house
was all the attempt at cultiva-
tion the soil that I saw. I asked
to be carried any considerable
distance. I think of starting day
after tomorrow for a ride round
about 10-12 leagues distant on
the road to Cuba. If I find a
good variety of things I shall
probably go in to Holguin
I have no introductory letters for
that place—not thinking we
slept this seriously of going
there. But I guess I shall find
friends there at least as long
as my money holds out. If I
do go to Holguin I shall
arrive in Cuba that broke-
I expect. But I can raise time
enough to get a little loan from
Bradford. That friend & especial
by the road ascending it has
been a rich place for me. It
would well repay another visit
at a different season. If the

savannas prove equally rich I shall perhaps be repaid my time & expense. I don't know however but you will be more the gainer than I. I found a second sp. of Linaria Lemoniana (I forgot the oldest prior name) & at least this sp. has simple leaves. I am strongly impressed with the notion that the Orbea has been hernia. The fl. looks exactly the same = L. simplicifolia

12th. The 5th went to the savana Cayo del Rey. My collection then would interest Thurber since he "took to grass" (a rain outlook is on the road which tapered off into a long drizzle — a characteristic of the showers in this part) But we reached shelter & were not wet. The vegetation was in fine condition. The composites but Liliaceae nor Amaryllidaceae as might initially have been looked for. The savana has quite a Pampean look. If I were not rather in the humor "To eat a spoon or spoil a horn" I might take the back track" or go straight on to Cuba. But I think of keeping on to Port au Prin. If I finally resolve to do so I shall get out very soon — not as soon as I can try off a little. No cactaceae at Cayo del Rey. I saw no signs of Holguin things they say the products are quite similar as to soil & surface Although as I have said it rains every day this is not the rainy season. Some Frenchmen tell me that by July in September there will be "aguaceros" (apparently it only rains now but then it will pour

Perhaps you would like to know how I fared at "Cayo del Rey" In this part of the island if one intends to sleep at a Hacienda de crianza — cattle ranche or farm he must carry his bed — hammock At supper all the food was in one

really good cookery. I have
[illegible] the [illegible] —
and don't keep sober?

Rio de Janeiro 25th. This beats Persephina. Cayo del Rey & every thing else I have met with yet in this country. My reception here was hardly civil I thought, but we are quite reconciled now I making use of the microscope to conciliate all hands. I sling my hammock in the doggery that is over between 20 & 30 days. The shed is nothing more than a dining room laundry cook house brewery & doggery — dickery for they are foreigners for eating tools here — not at Cayo del Rey. No knives or forks & very few spoons & plates as I suppose for we eat in little squads of two or three at a time & apparently at odd times as they can get them for the important operation. Every thing is inaccessibly filthy — but I must stomach it. I have had some good botanizing among old familiar plants Hypoxis & [illegible]

the man if he has any cane. So he has not been there quite a year [illegible] time he has only a little potato patch I conclude he would never have any cane. No fruit but guavas. They will grow anywhere. Here & there a mango tree. Not little fruit this year. Plenty of bitter mangos none or few sweet. At one time there must have been a great many hives of bees. Now all are gone. The Spinal offered to Cayo del Rey but it is not safe & liable as here. It is in plain sight & not very convenient from the house

18th. Holguin. Arrived this morning — every thing outside of the city looks old & worn out — thinking of turning back now to Mayari but in the direction of Cayo del Rey — must do this or go on to Baracoa when I will

be in a few days. Such is I am now Prairies on the way to Bayano and to be used in [illegible] many fine cattle. I spend my money in milk but not to get that for I bring home a black-boy at Mayani — so can go alone from Bayano to Chepo. Saw but little on the road from Mayani hither. Collected a few Things that I have not seen.

Holguin is a very pretty looking place for a Spanish town — pretty wide straight streets crossing at right angles — soil sandy or gravelly. What stones I have seen appear to my ignorance a sort of granite — but I profess no knowledge of geology. The fronts of the houses are white-washed & look well. Brick sidewalks in the centre of the city. But a walk of five minutes would take me from end to end. All outside is mud as [illegible] suburbs no fences but a sort of old field — common — [illegible] Spanish bayonet [illegible] with trees & shrubs! A little bit of a stream that one can step over is thick with little fishes — you might stir them up with a stick. To my great & [illegible] grief sorrow I can't take any of them along with me. I have seen them [illegible] (Thursday)

Barranquan. 22 m. Left Holguin the same day the 15th & arrived here early in the afternoon. Still prairie, but have to go yet six leagues. The road then passes over a high stony "loma" which gave me some nice plants & shells. I went back over a part of it yesterday. Tomorrow I start for "el hato del [illegible]dio" where is a large prairie. I am quartered in a "fienda" a bit of a store. Hung my hammock in a dark hovel opening into the kitchen or cook-hole. The woman gave me

the old road over hills. I rose
one yesterday with the back of my
right hand bandaged with the
miserable apparatus which with
difficulty saved from the la-
boring of Mayan. That I prob-
ably will die with the horrid
pain. My saddle horse is
worse for the journey. I think
I may get next to Bayamo but I
shall expect myself better. I will
be one day before I can get my
clothes & go for their myself
which I do not like to do on
account of leaving my horse
My boy went from Mayan. 2
found at Jiguaní a pharmacy in
good condition, only thought it
well preserved. On my way to
Bayamo saw nothing worthy re-
mark. Found at my stopping place
Quatro Sonic Nuevo Holly &
Mount Vick a little over the par-

"Cestrum parqui" genus a tricuticulus
Nyctaginaceae Mirabilis another Juncaginaceae
which is [illegible] with Linkage
[illegible] the stand
[illegible] account of the family
Pinguicula Clavis (5:1) are alternate with
the ovary has 5 placentas
the stamens [illegible] 5 [illegible] a flower
with the appearance & habit of some
Nyctaginaceae M. in umbels 4-5 sep.
pink. the latter white with yellow base
with [illegible] inflorescence [illegible]
like a many [illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible] & [illegible] ovules. Style [illegible]
[illegible] thick. [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] yellowish
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 2
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

another calls but if they are borne the cells must be very narrow
I am nothing of the long cords from
which the ovules are said by Lindley
to arise. From young P. which I
examined I should suppose how the
seed is matured. The flowers (corolla)
are not purple but dark red. They
have a kind of glancing lustre
With Found yesterday a little Bornmuellera
accompanied with the flowers so abundant
[illegible] perhaps
not a new Polygala [illegible]
Convolvulus & a genuine Nymphaea today besides other things
of less interest as three or four
Ranunculus some Cyperaceae &c
I am afraid I must stand
the fifth longer than I wished
to do

Sept 2nd Yesterday I saw the 2nd
of two species of Palm which I met
here besides a few other plants
but I was mainly occupied with shells
I was eminently successful
though I spent a short half-day

at the Farallon (Cayo del Rey)
My guide (a boy) was impatient
to return & I did not want to
appear ungrateful for his guid-
ance. I return then to-morrow
either to the same locality or
more likely to a neighbouring
one Perhaps I'll go to the Pond
later. It seems difficult to get
away which I am more anx-
ious to do for I want my letter
I am most anxious to know
the result of my application for
a Zoological companion The
glass you sent me has stuck to-
gether well but it is gone at last
[illegible]. Send me more by the
Zoologist if one comes otherwise
never mind. I have yet one though
not so good as that

Pt. Rosalie Sophie Darwin is born
the 6th. In repairing damage or
partially doing away with all my
pretty little Volutes & mitres
my Pond Boy had a busy time in

ullers while I remain here
I'll be likely to discover some
thing new or desirable in Zool-
ogy (conchology) is not in botany
Herring H.

the Brit Mus

a great

number of

Cuba Sept 6th/00

Dear Sir

Just arrived in Cuba
I have a long letter for
my brother which I venture
to send through you for two
reasons – To cover several
little plants & to give you &
Mrs G. a chance to laugh
over my trials & tribulations
since I last fortunes if
you can find anything
laughable in it. I couldn't
afford to write the same
stuff over twice. I shall
hand a letter for you in a
few days or when I get some
letters. You will see that I
have been six weeks on my

inland tour I could have spent profitably I have no doubt a little more time but my paper gave out &c. I became impatient for my letters. I never yet decided whether to go or a few days until I get my letters in La Guaira or Puerto Cabello. I have some notion if I get money to go to Bogota. I return to Cuba with less than $5. so that any movement out of the ordinary range depends upon my getting money. I see at Brooks & Co my box of plants sent by ship from Maracaibo but I dare not learn any thing of their dimensions. You seem to have repeated the error of the bee-book — buying these things & intending to send them months & months & months before you find an opportunity to do so. I hope you will induce the Zoologists to send out a collector. Do your best.

Yours sincerely

Chas Wright

Monte Video
Sept 15th 1860

My Dear Dr.

I feel greatly & if you catch it some I hope you will have patience to bear it. I return here after two months absence in hopes to find something satisfactory something calculated to enable me to plan out my future work. I find nothing two little scraps of letters from you since the 18th June. Nothing yet from Eaton nor Sullivant an empty packet line from Englemann. A letter from Baird tells me that my zoological specimens in the little bottles were all spoiled but does not explain the "how" so that I may pack them better in future. Not a word from any body relative to my petition for a collaborator.

As long ago as July 28th you announced your intention of sending me Darwin's work by the first vessel up for Cuba & May 5th you wrote me of the purchase of the "4 big Dictionaries". In the mean time you seem to have forgotten both & in your last come to the conclusion that I am about to return home & probably want send them at all. What am I to do with the "4 big Dictionaries" at Cambridge or Washington? I don't know what is come over you. You seem to have an unusual fit of forgetfulness. I think I suggested to you long ago to put such things into the hands of some ship's purser to Boston to Cuba & not bother yourself more about it. Well maybe I'll get them six months hence about the time I wish to return & can amuse myself with them on shipboard. But your treatment of me is really too

had. I don't expect you. You ought to feel to appreciate my situation. Nearly all the Fruit I am getting much intellectual diversion & sometimes witness any of all I know you are busy — so much struggle now-a-days to turn this business over to other hands. Not a word in her relation to the plants I have sent. A late letter contained some but I shant trouble you with any more. It is trouble without any benefit to me & you will see them all by waiting. I have found but few ferns that had a new look. Hereafter I shall not take any special pains to get a great number of specimens for I never can know when I have enough for full distribution & see no possible way of filling in short ~~the~~ numbers & therefore then would be at least forty full sets but when I examine they are worth down & duplicated in the distribution (making an auger hole with a gimlet) in some way. And the 25th set my counts 202 & the 34th only 163 I am not a little discouraged & now five or six months are gone & I get not a word of explanation. It is confoundedly provoking. It is worth filling up these defective & partial sets only to hit upon the delay & month after month with no hint of an end in view.

If a roll you shant come no dont forget to send me a good large magnifier. It would be well to send in a dozen steel pens for distribution among the people where we are particularly well treated. An opera glass for would be a great accommodation to people. Put in a few good strong pocket knives. I go on losing & breaking as usual

That Bombacaceae has just cast its leaves during my absence & as it is now the same time spend it is just ~~as~~ shed its yellow coat. I think I shall secure good fruit. I leave & will be all in yet. I hope 17th I'm all set up for it. Spirit to morrow or next day & soon start for Baylen

Yours truly Chas Wright

M. Verde Sept 18 [illegible]

[illegible]

28th 29th 31st. I sent off a letter last night giving you a tremendous blowing-up. I ain't going to take back a word of it again as in all the former ones you are giving me [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Richmond"

I start tomorrow morning
for Lynchburg & the
Va & Tenn R R
so from there to Abingdon
I will be
Affectionately yours Mary Minnie

PS Saltsdale 19th Arrived
here I have the vexation &
mortification to learn that
the last draft No 100 is
quite worthless. This will
Lorring indorse the cer-
tificate over to me but failed
to sign the indorsement
Meanwhile in coming here
I passed the messenger who
was bringing me a letter
an explanation of the mat-
ter & containing the draft
So I have to return for
the draft tomorrow. But
I must this letter now
not to miss a mail &
send it direct to you
though I propose to enclose
it in one to my sister

Monte Verde Sept 20th

Dear Dr

Wednesday Easter ... Mitchell
Cook Bingham He is electing to get
money in Saltadero or Cal. You
returned me in place of the valueless
certificate. Tell Loring the next time
he indorses any thing to me
not to leave his signature in the
inkstand.

I take to mean a ... of
you. more made "Lick (4) the teeth
of the Lion" or the reverse of ... the
... of doing things. I think now I have
"full right to retort on you or ...
Well I must ... to labor in my
Better that than wasted ... months in
idleness. I think I succeed. ... still
... a few days time

I ... to keep you advised
... things I want to know — as to
"the Retouches" "Darwin" "Bates"
"Gray" "Wallace" "Lubbock"
the present one) ... "
likely ever to realize ... for my
... Lubbock ... better they will

be part of the inheritance of my heirs. I leave
you the leaves & bit of land in a large field
enclosed and separate from small leaves
for you &c. I hope the letter
you have been of use to you.
You will endorse the bill: for neither
I have the interest nor time of the time
nor have a deficiency in it.
2nd yesterday I saw one of my
on my hand for the first time.
Morning. I have
received your letter & note for
the first & note for letter
from Lord.
23rd send it to the Bar &c. I may
give him by the 2 clock mail tomorrow
Yours truly
Charles Darwin

Mr. Thomas Jefferson
Washington
Mansion House

San Juan de Buenavista
November 17th 1880

My Dear Dr. I came here day before yesterday. It is an old worn-out [illegible] S.W. by S. 15 leagues from Bayamo. It does not look very promising. But there are some high rolling savanilla near & one of them yesterday gave me some nice plants, & [illegible] also is in sight & they are going to [illegible] where it grows. Yesterday I got Orchis, Polygala, Crotala[illegible] shrubby twining Legum. several Solanas, a new Euphorb, & a new Lilliaceous plant [illegible] this family, with anomalous i.e. irregular flowers. One Asphodeleous tardy fully [illegible] some plants having not completed the rudiments of pistils — Others having both stam. & pist. The other has fewer than 5 petals I found but 2 in one fl. & in another — the only one that I examined & but one ovary with two erect ovules. One is yellow fl. the other white

In discussing the affinities of Anonaceæ, Magnoliaceæ, Schizandraceæ, &c. Mrd. lays great stress on the valvate estivation of the cor. in the first of these orders. In the Guanalana. (Anona squamosa?) the inner row of pet. are as conspicuously imbricate as in any other plant whatever and if my memory does not deceive me in Oxandra both cal. & cor. are imbricate

I have just skinned a humming bird & if you think it is a little matter I dont think it is a little labor The back part of the tongue is cleft & passes in two strong ligaments over the back of the head to the base of the beak where they are attached exactly as in woodpeckers showing that they live upon insects & sting

a doubt which I have always had relative to their food. The stomach was filled with spider mothy. This may be no new thing to ornithologists. & the remarks above relative to plants may be to botanists" — going coals to Newcastle." But I thought it well enough to note such discrepancies as I find between my own observations & such books as are within my reach

18th. Went today to the pinal & got a load of stuff — some of it certainly new. Several things that I am familiar with at a look & yet I could not satisfy myself that I had collected exactly the same thing elsewhere. Two ferns are of this kind — they are either new or very stunted forms of those found in the pinal at N.V. & yet some of both but not enough to distribute fully. Indeed I have no idea when I [illegible]. I observed more particularly the fl. of the Dilleniaceous plant mentioned above & find the petals commonly 4 & many 3 — saw none with 5. The pinna has 8 leaves & 2 in a sheath. They appear slenderer & the cones smaller than those of the Mogui pine

22d Went again yesterday to the Pinal — got a very handsome Lysoher. a new Polystichum — a diocean, Myrsinae. some grasses — a tall carex, which I think I got in my other collection but scantily (plenty now) a Pennaea? two new ferns. I am satisfied now that those I got before are stunted forms of larger ones. But Adiantum emarginatum is the very smallest of the species and the most fruitful. I find a Lycopodium [illegible]. It looks just like one found on a variety of trees & bushes. The pinal consists of two knobs very rocky (porphyry, mica sandstone?) covered with pines & very tall grass only on the summits below densely wooded with other growths. One is a mere peak — the other longer & sinuous. I left my knife up there & must go up the tall one & have to return for it. Otherwise I should probably undertake a job which is not a little laborious. Did I get Hemanthus before?? I find a plant which accords with the name & which looks much like Micranthemum — next to which Gray puts it. But is it Micranthemum Pennelianus? I had such a kind of impression in my mind

Last night after my first nap I couldn't sleep an unusual thing for me — so I turned out of my hammock & walked the meadow and in my meditations the question occurred — wonder if Mrs Gray will come here this winter? And then I thought if she should come she would arrive about this time & I wouldn't be in Tuba to meet her. You see it is several months since the date of the last letter received from you & in that time you may have changed & rearranged all your plans

22d Just got yours of Oct 18th with the draft "as is a draft" do you don't know anything about the "4 big dictionaries". I believe you have "run distracted". Well, then you are [illegible] "I give you up" — "forever" — I know they are not "7 men in bad strain". "Where is Bayard?" Oh! Doctor!! With your big Atlas & your Universal Gazetteer — to ask such a question. Well to save your time I'll tell you. It lies about 40 leagues from Tuba about N. by W. or N. by W. ½ W. as Jack would say or as I would say not being very certain of the exact direction N. & W. ½

Mr Lescaille had not got home Nov 9th my last date from Jalisco & they then had no late news of the expected "revolutionary" [illegible] for I felt nudisk when I went to Yalemo for letters & mostly [illegible] the latter with some advice which always comes too late though it may be very good in itself. As regards the East point of the island I haven't given up the idea of going there. But one thing at a time. I don't expect to accomplish any this time for I feel in a particularly good humor having received besides your letter one from home, one from Bayard, one from Gen Hack & one from H. Hayward. Now bar news but what you communicate — the death of your brother on which occasion you have my sympathy. Besides [illegible] question of the "4 big dictionaries" which must remain for the present in glorious uncertainty the other main one is not very satisfactorily answered. "The highest no. is 1714 (the old one to say 856) But we have distributed a great many under 800 nos." Now what am I to conclude from this? — that a set of the present coll. numbers 864? is worth [illegible] This is what I have been after all the time & you all I am in as great doubt as ever as to my earnings

think the coll of the last two years ought to be 1000 or more specie & this or an approximation a good guess—is what I want to know. To state the matter in another way which can't be misunderstood. Suppose a man comes to you & says "I want a set of Wrights last Cuban plants ferns included." What must he pay you for them? I hope to get an answer to the above question in those little chaps that are said "not to lie". (Now don't reply "money!!")

I hope Baker will speedily settle the difference between himself & Hooker about that Fuertabia Dunca Sp. spec. of the former coll. We a Blanco in Enumeration of the present at N.Y. If they are identical I want to know it that I may save myself the task of lugging 68 pounds (juicy & heavy) from the top of a mountain of no slight elevation

Wright yesterday to the Plaza. Found my knife. Got plenty of one of the new ferns discovered on the 27th Don't know if I got enough of the other. Haven't counted them yet all I found discovered a new Dorstenia—only four spec. with fr. unfortunately—searched diligently for more

Want for only comfort—luxury I enjoy here is cane—of this I have a plenty. The nig who was set to serve me evidently is a sociable animal & longs to get among his kind at Guanajay—and I don't wonder—driver—tomorrow I shall go to Guabegua thence to Bay—now the first opportunity I can—

Perhaps Don Mauneo will send a nig with me. The roads must be very good now & I wish to improve their goodness to return to Cuba. I must now pay what course next to steer. I have been rather relying on the hope of a companion so much that I shall want a letter time & additional letters which I hope to find with Bradford to enable me to plan another excursion

Bayamo 26 Came to the city this morning—a drizzly day. With patches of sunshine Mean to set out for Cuba tomorrow if the weather will allow

Yours ever

Chas Wright

N. Sophia
Dec 16th 1860

Dear Dr

I must growl again — cant help it. Two months ago you was going to send me Darwin's mem. Cant I have it? One month is enough for that — even two. As I told you before "To be expecting these things month after month" is any thing but pleasant. To go time after time enquiring for them is unpleasant in vain. Or might appear so? I [illegible] to make myself of more importance than I really am — to be ever expecting that somebody is sending me something.

Mr L. is here — came in the steamer which you may have — broke her shaft away in the middle of the Atlantic — lost 3 days clearing away the water

or useless wheel & came on with one & sails—made a long passage to St. Thomas Mr L. is Vice-Consul. I have good health in France—two cats for him. He is yawning—is rejoiced to be home again & likes it as home [illegible] as well as ever. Mrs L is charged & talks of going in our country if it gets quite well—goes in two or three days to N. Y. I think of staying a little while here, or at Charles Lescallier near Lyon to look for some thing at the Faculties especially Meteorologie for Mr L.

On my way from Bayonne I turned north & spent two weeks at Bradford. I found a few good things on La Guyane & Vanua d'Lyaw. besides some shells & bird

With Mr L's help I have penetrated further to the continent [illegible] I have been able to do. I shall give in instructions letters two which will facilitate my travels & other hints so that I hope to make the winter profitable for Botany as well as Zoology

Well the Democrats are licked this time Black-Republicanism is triumphant & seems to be sweeping its "shadow before" Apparently the country has small cause of rejoicing in its change of politics. However I suppose the victors will ascribe the financial troubles to the dying throes of democracy or to any other cause than real or imagin-

M. Verde Jan 4th 1861

My Dear Dr

On the 31st ult. I received yours of the 10th inst. with Butler's bulletin, & the jubilation on the triumph of black-republicanism. You ought to be thankful that you got it so long before it will reach the light. To produce conviction in your connection I doubt if there is the same gloomification in Boston as in the old home. God grant that the great North-west may view the case in its true light & not bow down to petty fanatical New-England. When they find the great valley of the West cut off from their trade in at least a portion they may repent & be late. I do hope concessions may be made in time to prevent a separation but the worst is to be expected. I have given a very gloomy picture of the future. That the south have a right to secede I am not a doubter. Coercion!!! don't think of it. To subjugate a free & brave people!! Why S. Carolina has been ready & yet I do not know but it is the best course that could have taken.

I found Mr. L. at Roswell & Sophie-in-law cheerful & improving in health. Mamie & Will are not for this place. Then went to Los Lunas — a village — two leagues

The next day I made an excursion of any length a pair of new shoes stretched my ankle

to as to keep me up. To improve the time I came
here to [illegible] Illinois reward for the evening
The reason I came to get my letters. But a parcel
of letters (a second one) was despatched to Bayou
Teche which I wrote to H. Lescaille in time enough
to prevent him from sending them. Then closed
me on the way probably. I have written to have
them sent back. There may be one of yours among
them. I intended to return immediately. But
H. L. is about to cut a piece of wood & I wait
to see if I can get any thing new from the fallen
trees. Another neighbor also is rumbling down
the Bayou (by the way yesterday) I
suppose to use the latter blade — afterwards
Henry's. Then return to the last. He is going
to the last window — I want to explore the
reason for which he will [illegible]
I presume your answer will be "there he
is by the river in Cuba." no you will say
I hear that you grumbling but we approved
it "etc." If he is delighted round with that idea
supposing that I am collecting for him,
from while he with a persistency which
does [illegible] a simple matter
the sooner you undeceive him the better. I
shall waste no more time/paper/ink in
vain efforts to get information from him
One of my latter letters [illegible] when I
came in M. P. I would settle [illegible]
the "4 vis Dictionaries" or [illegible] you have
it in your letter, returned to you [illegible] you may have
received them from [illegible] Cuba [illegible] 19 a
ble of lines from one [illegible] two days earlier

I think I neither got you down on the question
about the mats & blankets & more I am pretty
certain of it as to Anastrophora but in this case
you use the phrase "for certain." I am not quite
so Falstaffian as you suppose & do not
open see "9 men in buckram"

Yours must be frozen up I think for your
last is dated Nov 10th & I cant learn that any
number later than Dec 4th in the Comite des
Etats Unis has been received. His letters
in twelve to fifteen days. I believe on second
thought I am worrying about your letter. I think a
later one came to me at St. Sophie but now is
not clear & this unable to tell. I kept
what the [illegible] — or am not able to say any
thing positive about it

In your letter I can
Comicide is 241 & 291. in what little I have to

I might then work about 250 packages out
suppose 10 per cent of them were defective &
can hardly believe there were more. That would leave
225
[illegible] There is only a 20 parcels
unverified. Of these in my opinion there might not
to have been more than 90 per cent imperfect leaving
somewhat more than 180/2 full sets parcels. Now
& collected to get. You seem to have reduced them
I. e. to think they ought to be but not better. Then
calculation would make them 2 this would manufacture
30 full sets. I have no knowledge how many of

ats were made. not very many I fear when they fall off as That No 25 is only 202. Tennessee could not [illegible] been very expensive & it would have increased in an equal proportion the no. of pp. 2
press Editor has been mis-plitting & I think I can just my finger right on the very mistake Dr Newton & should be mis made in Sharpe body & Nonpareil.

6th. This morning I ate part [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Monte Verde Jan 19th 1861

My Dear Dr

Yesterday came yours of the 28th ult I was almost in despair. Every thing seemed lagging. My brother is in arrears. Two numbers. The Courier ship'd below rec'd them last night. Now however I am a little perked up You will see by my last letter that I try to give you as good as you send in politics You say "we are in the midst of Treason and Secession". Secession it is not — Treason no. S. Carolina is not waging war on the U.S. nor giving aid & encouragement to her enemies She asks only to be "let alone". Virginia is beginning early to show her colors. She had better beware. Let him not imagine himself omnipotent. He must consult the Senate before he attempts to coerce S. Car. Might it make the trial will he find in the north volunteers enough to whip S. Car? All he will enlist will be mercenaries, whose highest aim is to steal a nigger. You "civil war in the middle of the 19th Century". Allow me to say that your Beecher, Parsons & Co. were in Bedlam. The proper place for them. If you don't like this political sparring just remember that you began it.

I have never seen your resume of the distribution & it would not clear that including all Hi? & ?? & Harvey's set (given?) the value of the whole is about $1,500 — not a very profitable business after deducting expenses. There remain however some 15-20 sets of pens not

included in the account of the mosses Lichens & Fungi — If I ever get any thing for them. Your letter faintly explains the [illegible] "an clown" [illegible] explanation

I was so much vexed at what I thought an unreasonable delay in giving me at least a brief explanation of this matter that I had almost come to the determination not to send home any more. They are scattered too — some at Bedford — some in Cuba — some at Adolphi & some here. I doubt very much whether I can [illegible] I shall see you when I shall get them all together.

You believe Sullivant is at work on the mosses I suppose so. At least he managed to write me to that effect at the same time acknowledging his remissness. They say "confession is good for the soul" Sullivant is [illegible] is good for nothing in my opinion. When his "Icones" is published I hope you will secure me several copies. I want to give some to my friends here He thinks me a "capital fellow" Sorry I cant return the compliment. You call him a good fellow. His goodness so far as I can see is scattered about in spots few & far between: small [illegible] I have never hit upon one yet

27. ~~Last~~ Nouvelle Sophie Last night came your two packages & Tenax knives books & pamphlets. Many thanks. I shall be likely to know something on the origination of sp. or at least the opinions on this subject by the time I read all that is written on it.

I wrote lately a long letter to Baird giving him two a blowing up for promising to send me certain things & failing to comply or at least giving me no clue to find the things sent. I enclose a line to him which you can read & give to him. Please forward it.

Eaton promised me some remarks on such ferns as are incongruent in number but I find nothing from him except the first of the Enumeration. If he dilly-dallys in this fashion he need not wait at all for I shall be on my way home before his list of desiderata starts

I wrote to Baird something in this manner to show him how I have been victimized for two years. First my letters during the first six months or so of my stay at college. Then my brother sent me a box of clothing — lost. Then I asked you for Weddell — Ans. "you'll have to wait till you come home to study Botts." Next Baird sent me about 9 books 4 months elapsed before I found them. He neglected to advise me when they were sent. About a year ago I asked you for money & gave you directions how to send. You saw fit not to follow them & I was quite ruptured for a good while. Then you were going to send me some books presently — I have yet now got them But not the "4 great Dictionaries" (never mind this). Again in remitting me money Mr L. left the signature to his endorsement in the inkstand & I had to work on borrowed money. which did not hold out quite as well as I could have desired. Again Prof Baird (Col Bell) promises to send in a few days & don't be surprised some fine o'clock. This is all I know about it. There!! if that is not a sufficient list of grievances for two years I'd like to know what is

I approve the "stolen saddle" in its proper chronological order. Further matter

I shall set out tomorrow for N. Y. where Mr L. is going to cut down a large piece of wood. It is the best chance that I now see of doing any thing in botany.

It is in my head that the pond is [illegible] with leaves just as with you in November & many trees are as naked as yours now are

Yours ever

Charles Wright

P.S. I see Lyon has approved Dorotheia Isbell as Ht Lead Letter not Lyr. ~~Pl. ar. [illegible]~~ Spirocum It looks a little absurd

I can hardly persuade myself that I have a scandent, is identical with either of the other two. If Lyon wants one there [illegible] I have all three — I guess he will change his opinion

political news from a less hackneyed source than Commercial

Etats-Unist than you do. Ellen are thousands that acknowledge the grievances by which the South complains & that will rather than go to battle with their own flesh & blood. Write you to his Brother ... Offer of General Sandford of New York to give the Hdqrs of the war to Gen Scott will bring out some scintillation of popular sentiment indicating that Mr Cesar Lincoln will have "more room to travel" if he attempts to coerce the South. There may be a Brutus in his path.

S. Car has the credit of being windy. Be it so or not there are now several other States of her opinion & the curse of the country is windy orators blustering about the perpetuity of the present rebellion at the very time pursuing a course to cause it. [illegible] Even Gen. Banks decrees that the "union must be eternal" as if it were the prerogative of a Gov. of Mass to decide what must be eternal

You think democracy is very corrupt (& its partizans) I suppose it is. Do you think Republicanism much better or that it will long remain so under the influence of the spoils. "Believe that parties contain good & that & that there is little as to moral character to choose between them

I say above that I had been ill in body. I have had my lower lip swollen & the sensible portion of it covered with something like a blister. It made me quite feverish & for two days I could not articulate so as to be understood in reading. It kept me from my meals. I trust it will be well in a few days. This affliction has however given me leisure to read Darwin & all the reviews from & to boot. I should like to have him to read the "4 great Dictionaries" if you had only them. Darwin has certainly made an interesting book with an easy style more than can be said of some of the reviews & a plausible train of argument. But sometimes I don't like to admit "all is nature" that bones & muscle & vegetable fibre have or ever had such powers of making selections as his theory allows — By the way I see Great Britain has a red [illegible] Just tell Darwin to put in the final selection from the [illegible] in his next edition. The [illegible] were made by Newton in 1775 Washington in 1792 — & Lincoln's [illegible] in 1861

Looking over H. Wm. I find a few misprints & some familiar faces I don't see. Wonder Xylosma interjectum. Lyis has H. nitida. Is it a Lapsus pennæ with Risingera in the mind? In 1857 I collected sparingly a shrub or bush with apetalous yellowish sweet scented flowers which I referred to Silicaceæ This time I have sent it home in abundance but I don't see it any-where. I have certainly sent home two sp. of Marcgraaviaceæ. I should probably have discovered Manila which I doubtfully referred to its right place if Bnth. had put it there instead of placing it in Mascarene. Lyis. has given [illegible] under Polygalaceæ for your cases. Wonder Phoradendron construction "in quibusdam provinciis should be "in quorundam &c" "Gilan" [illegible] Phlebotænia is given "Prope urbem [illegible] Cuba de Guantanamo 1856." Whence came this? [illegible] 1857 in the spring. As to the "quorundam locis" noted above I don't know how to [illegible] Lyis. has not access to the latter coll. But when you say the distributed numbers amount to 1700 + & I see references to numbers above 1600 So that it seems Lyis has the whole coll. before him. Please enlighten me on this subject.

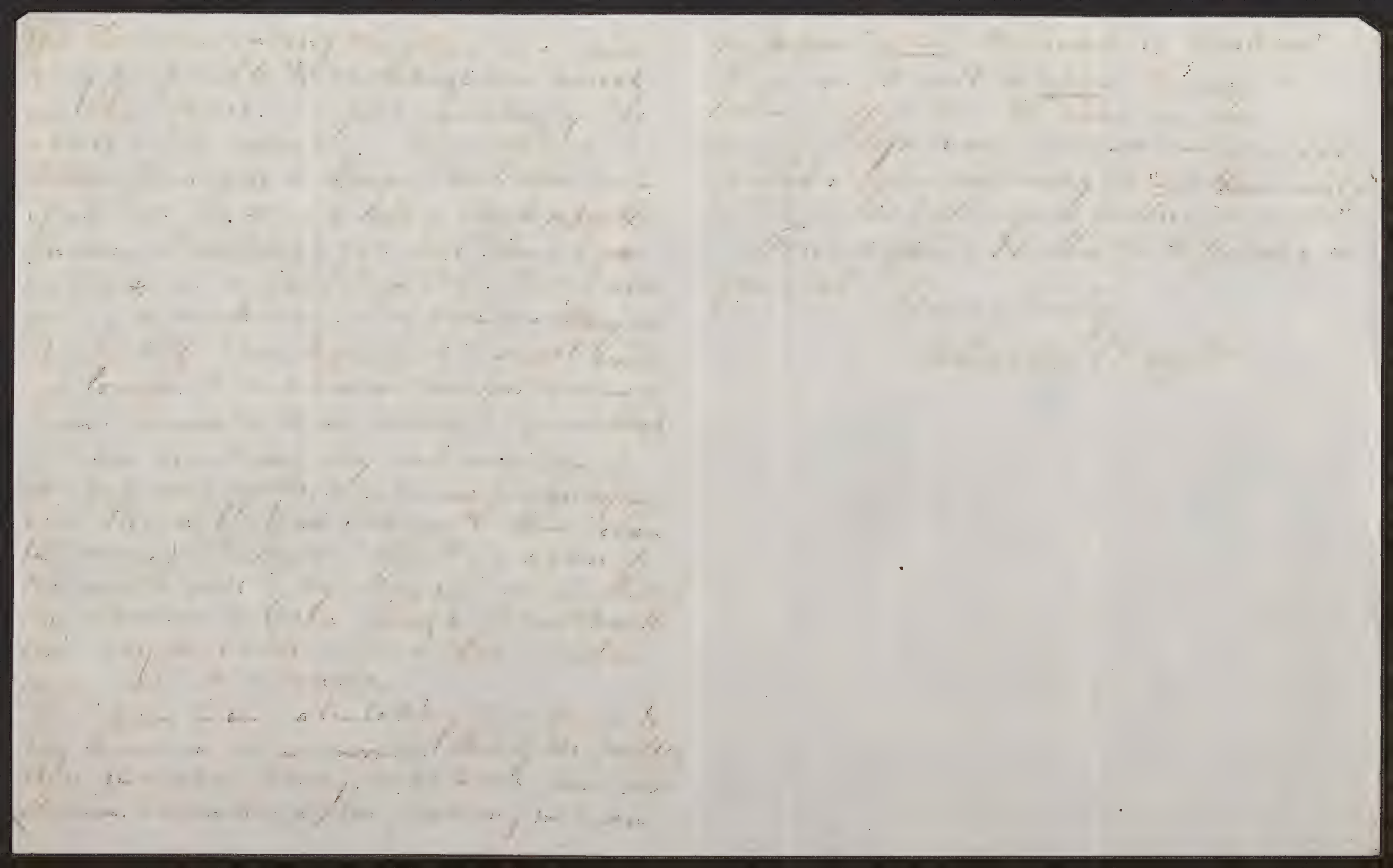
15th The latest manifesto of Mr. Lincoln "Mr. his - to Sprite Organ" is very bellicose. The North will be no place for me if he attempts to execute his will. nor the South if he succeeds

I would like then to know what means I have to use upon it if I would seek a free court to live in or take my chance of the responses which are likely enough. If the time when it is [illegible] will you give me a summary of my [illegible] relations with you. All what they should be advised that I may [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[



Paris, Mar 2 1861

My Dear Sir

I just got your of 23d ult & will answer it by & by. I have a house full, & am not [illegible] the letter writer in "bad spirits" because the times are bad. I feel bad about the state of the country. How many years has Greeley been abusing the south & calling it, people all sorts of bad names & stealing their property whenever they can get a chance? How many years has the influence of the north been perverted by laws which operate to the advantage of the north? I dont mean that these laws are not good for the whole country but the north ought to manifest a little gratitude to the south for the immunities it has enjoyed. If you have read Parson Brownlow — a weathercock — an unfortunate [illegible] by this time he may be on either side of the fence. He has [illegible] a sorry [illegible] in the elections. To take one of the candi-

ates from the north (Penn. or vice-versa) & one from the south. This time for many years this practice has been separated from. The main question is the victorious party is "down with slavery". The south has no security for the future. Even to tell the truth they are much better off than they were. The first feature in this secession movement is the utter selfishness of the extreme south. Those who are comparatively safe from real grievance & whilst the bulk of their own property is left they have gone off in a tangent regardless of the feelings of the border states which are the greatest sufferers. If secession should become a "fixed fact" my hope is in seeing across Mason & Dixon's line a good many of the border states will still be less than many. In my heart I would be content with Lincoln if he were a moderate man for a peaceful adieu. But just the possibility of his choosing strong anti-slavery partisans — Sumner for example who has gone absolutely

nothing but mischief during his whole Senatorial term. What would he then have done had he been able to keep his place in the Senate all the time —

"I wish you would write a letter to Mr. — who has always done just what I asked him to do!" If I had asked him what I asked him I should as not call him a "good fellow" to-morrow for the transaction & your friend — glad his not your enemy

Mont Lebanon Mont Lebanon

now in the middle of a "row," [illegible]

[illegible] a few days [illegible]

[illegible] but shells. [illegible]

[illegible] to find some place.

Kind regards to Mrs G.

[illegible]

[illegible]

In Camp near Laguna N. Mexico
March 25th 1861

My Dear Z.

Monte Vista Ap 11th/89

My dear Dr

I got home today just in time to escape a rain of the heaviest kind and not a short shower. Yesterday I got a good wetting. I have been about forty days. I have found quite a number of novelties & some others that have a newer look. The books have come & now I can have the comforts of studying some. If I had had them at first I think I now know a little of genera & species instead of knowing only families & that very imperfectly. Today I found again my Lycon pseudo-cus male & female and not content with these ones from I got a piece of this stem for I intend to establish it as a true sp. It is a genuine Cimbex exactly like Celtis occidentalis or Planera aculeata but without their spines. The stam. fl. are much smaller than those of C. occidentalis (as well as I remember) and are yellowish green. The leaves are latter are white. The habit or manner of growth ought also to be some distance. If this proves to be a true sp. the other two must be raised to the rank of species for the fruticose sp. flowers

at a height of 4°-10°? is common. I like the tree-form 8-10° diam & 40-50° high. I have seen only twice as wide as I am up there. So if the original b. Am. is the ~~original~~ sp. as is most probable the other will be b. arborea. If the form of the leaves differ, no specific char. The color is different & that of the fr. particularly so.

A slaver has just been taken & 600 + boxes nearly 150 of them empty. Here is a bone for your negro lovers to gnaw. If you want to stop the slave trade, just keep a few small steamers accommodating in the Mediterranean. If England manifests half the energy & diligence in the Napoleonic case that she does in the matter of international law expiated in the Bombardment of Copenhagen & the attack on Com. Porter in a neutral port she could entirely stop the slave trade in a year. She now not fears the wrath of the non de Unite States now. She keeps up a great naval establishment on the coast of Africa to little purpose except to watch over the interests of her colonies there. Let her just growling at the U.S. for not doing the same thing. If that naval force paid by private men on the coast of Cuba then would be no more slave trade

P.S. Mr L. spoke today of sending his carpet-bag to Canada for a little good-natured plunder. He knows I have been anxious to go by land if I could & I suspect he has this ~~[illegible]~~ in mind as much for my sake as for his own. But he is now getting his respectable practice [illegible] for some time yet & it is perhaps just as well as to go now.

Upon words me once that ~~[illegible]~~ had no doubt & had said Bayou Salade. I don't find it in W. but in P. & I begin to suspect that for some cause or another

a good many of my plants are not mentioned. I expect at any rate that I got it in my late excursion near Tucson. I wish you had found a second spec. Portlandia. It has a short rough capsule & I suppose to your fig. — I believe that is the correct etymology. If not you can settle it as I have not a great deal to say [illegible]. I enclose some bits of a new species for Episcopal. You have plenty of it until now. Your glaucescens fr. Texas with [illegible] fr. — your virens upon have in abundance fl. & fr. — and your pedicellaris ~~[illegible]~~ with fruit grown fr. but no fl. so far as I know. The seed won't probably germinate characteristic. Your last — Feby 23d — is getting in the matter sufficient.

Kind regards to Mrs G & my friend ~~[illegible]~~ down the street & yet [illegible]

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

P.S. Why do you publish such names as Grindelia punctata & Solidago serrulata? Why not keep them in "hortus siccus" as you once promised to do & they do? — as naming by me is much a matter of guesswork.

Just arrived from S. and I note that Lincoln has not been allowed to act according to his own judgment of both civil & Mil. There is one office much needed in our government. Gen'l Scott. His duties should be to apply the "ignominious at posteriorem" to every lazy scamp prowling about the seat of Govt. begging for office. For many a brilliant service & sacrifice of delicacy I will call him the arse-kicker General & to distinguish him from similar officers in the State Militia. He should be compelled to save the Pres. particularly & all the Govt. officers from the cunning and of lobby Congressmen & all Buck Irish.

Well I didn't know I had spent more than $2000
since March 58. I thought it was good. However it's
all right, I know. I am not drawing on Jaughter
Hopes to be. But you spoke in a very pleasant
manner of offsetting your paper (or the labors
on the Japan Library against our [illegible] by my
Little was ever said about [illegible] from the
you mention these notes in your letter I am
infer that you consider them
all events I am
about that I dare say if we do about politics
Mr L. sends many thanks for the photograph. Which is very like

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

That abomination, the franking privilege, ought to be
the first thing done away with. Would it is abolished
[illegible]
[illegible]
send home by mail his foul linen, and cart load of
congressional Do's. (dash) is outrageous. The same may
be said of [illegible] subject to the annoyance of cart load
of letters from applicants for office — a useless burdening
the mails. Well this is a Patchwork — Th. [illegible]
Hays. We have N.Y. papers to the 5th inst Gloomy per heck

Yours
[illegible]

Monte Verde May 5th 1861

My Dear Dr.

I dont know that I wrote you that returning from Bayamo my pack horse had a very sore back & I left at Bradford (Manzanillo) my dried plants — two large bundles. On the receipt of your letter of Dec 28 in which you ask why I do not send you the plants collected at Mayari &c. I wrote to Bradford begging him to send the two bundles to Cuba He didn't get my letter of Jany 24th till in March when he complied with my request. From Cuba the plants have been brought on for me. Meanwhile Sophie & I may run back for them here any day But I think as I shall come home myself before long it will not be worth while to send them: which can perhaps be better employed in getting these things to the places I shall visit now. I am making arrangements to go to Buenos & shall probably start in a few days.

A few days ago I went to Monte Verde (Yauco) & spent one day & a half in examining the orchideous growth. I did very well in both branches. Of the Ranunculus of which I sent a leaf I got specimens in abundance & good. I suppose it is the ubiquitous Ranunculus. It is truly indigenous. I found a new Croton & a Euphorbia. Of Lepidoptera — very distinct from Mt. Sinai — a Papilio Cardonensis — a Lycaena not answering the description at hand

Am I by not agreeing very well with any in my books — several Melastomaceæ — ditto — two Aristolochias (not A. trichostoma by) some peppers which I can't make out among them a Micropiper — a very little delicate thing — also nettles ditto — item a little polemoniaceous herb (or a Hydrophyll) — specimens scanty — I gave it a very slight preservation — also two handsomest Orchideæ I have yet seen

I have I think acknowledged the receipt of your last Ap. 2 but do not answer it. "We had better not worry each other about the secession imbroglio" A very good beginning, yet you go on for a couple of pages partly about the south — partly in defence of the north. I could if I thought it worth the while give you as good as you send suppose it that I am a secessionist Let them that will live under your D efficile existation. It was very good in the time of Washington Jefferson &c. when men were honest As for me I say of the Southern Confederacy please me better. Abolish all privileges reduce the pay of your legislators one half & you'll have more & better legislation & you'll keep out of debt. And be sure you provide for the axe-kicker that the President may have some time to devote to the interests of the public & not be tormented to death by such vermin as swarm about him "cherchez les places"

But your heart is in this matter as mine is & it is difficult not to talk & write as well as think about it. We have the news down newly to the middle of Ap. Then all was warlike preparation. The Pres. after vacillating all the month of March & crying peace! peace! suddenly sends off all the naval forces that could be mustered with sealed orders. Up to this time we know not the object of all this naval armament nor when the blow will fall but to me it looks all bad all wrong. I dread to hear the result.

6th Today I found a juglans — a large one 50-60 ft high Leaflets 6 pair ovate-lanceolate inequilateral. For a little more than an inch in diam. — probably J. cinerea

9th Yesterday I got a glorious duckling. I found however Lagetta Lintearia for the first time — little else. I hope to be off today or tomorrow for Baracoa The rain yesterday prevented my guide from coming according to appointment

I have borrowed some money of Mr. L. Please send me a certificate of deposite for $50.00 in his name. Direct the letter to him not to my name on the envelope or he will not open it. You can put within it any note you may have for me. Frederick Lescaille — observe the orthography which is often a matter of importance

Probably you had better not write to me after the end of this month as I shall embrace the first good chance of returning home? after my return to Baracoa.

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Brattleboro June 3d 1861

My Dear Dr.

I have just tied up the plants thus far collected & dried during the present excursion & I expect to ship them by the Andrew Stewart — Abrams master — to sail in a few days. I thought this better than to transport them back 50 - 60 leagues — & Yosters with great risk of being wet besides adding much to my load

I have directed them thus "D. A. Gray care of B. Westermann & Co Booksellers Broadway N. York." I don't know how it will do — am not very certain of the initial letter D. but I guess they will

fall into the right hands. I write also to Dr. Torrey begging him to look after them. The collection makes a very creditable table for size & will afford a good many novelties — not scientifically perhaps but in increasing numerically the list of my Cuban plants. I came from Matanzas day before yesterday. Here it is pour! pour! pour! or drizzle! drizzle! drizzle! so that I can't stir out & the steamers are in preventing me from going to the Cayenne. So soon as I can I shall pay it a visit which will probably detain me but a few days. Then I shall return to Guantanamo stopping a day or two in the Cuchillas (Mountains) on my way. The first good opportunity that occurs at Guantanamo I shall start for home — & more than that part of me soon I must go to Cuba

It is a terrible hoggy place & apparently filthy enough to kill mud turtles — but my kind host says "they'll keep well" as if he was a little surprised that it should be so. Well I stood it two weeks or more & I am in good health. I think it likely this is the last time I shall write to you from the island. The fact is I have been thinking lately about my return home that I am getting rather homesick & shall be apt to jump at the first fair chance that occurs of paying you a visit. Meanwhile I remain

Very truly
Yours
Charles Wright

Professor Lyon
Cambridge
Mass.

Barranca June 19th 1868

My Dear Sir

I received your Apr 27. Now I never wrote to you from Catalina near Laguna La Grande. You don't know that! such a place. Laguna la Grande is a [illegible] Laguna de Tarumes I have been at. You are very particular about your names. I'd like to know why Dorstenia arnaciefs is not good. The stem or caudex is often several inches long & covered thickly all the way with the bases of fallen leaves showing something like a perennial habit (doubtless others are perennial also) & this stem or caudex is pretty thick & appears still thicker from the [illegible]

Hydrocotyliptia! — whew! What a rasgua-padalian name — better let it be anonymous. Well I never [illegible] Poetic ears. But I have not [illegible] having both woolly and [illegible] plants with [illegible] says the [illegible] occasionally some or all abortive" Now I have never seen a petal yet or if so much [illegible] to be easily overlooked

Then again you say "the whole South is perfectly of one mind" I deny it. "Republicanism

at the North is ram pant & Democratic printing offices in the large cities have been compelled to run up the stars & stripes from their houses to save them from being torn down by the mob. The Democratic party has done every thing in their power for peace but every peace measure has been kicked under the table & no compromise has been the cry & now because Democrats can not feel that this is a matter of rejoicing & run up the stars & stripes they are mobbed & compelled to do it. There is a party to preserve our flag & yet we feel sad to see until their hot heads have cooled & a boiling heat & they are ready for war". There is a good deal in my mind which suggests itself as the reason why I should write a letter at about the same date as my own. It closes with the advice to stay where I am. "Let those who have made the war do the fighting". No! Beecher Stowe Garrison & such villains aint going to fight. It is useless to quote any Massachusetts opinion. There has for a long time been only one opinion in the State — & that is Anti-everything of the bitterest kind. I feel more like cursing-blaspheming if you will when I think of the mad fanatical infatuation of the "long-forbearing North" mark & damn the authors of the war There you have it!!!! I mean the northern fanatics!!

I have put up another small package of plants to send from here. rather than carry them to Nyteras. I cant say now whether I shall follow your advice & that of the friends — to stay here or not. On arrival in Nyteras I shall [illegible]. I have often regretted that I had no children. Now I rejoice at it & I congratulate you that you are not likely to leave any of your own flesh & blood to suffer the consequences of this putrefied strip. For you & me a few more years only remain & I am so used to rambling that I can easily spend them abroad. But I had intended this excursion to be my last. God knows if it is only the beginning of a long one!

I am in first rate health

The package of plants goes by the steam

Miss Eliza Cumming desires to Dr
Gray "for Dr Gray"

Yours truly

Chas Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Monte Verde June 24th 1861

My Dear Dr

I got home yesterday & found on my home [illegible] 7 days ex. Barracoa - collecting a little on the way - [illegible] - obliged to shut my eyes in many [illegible] - would go back immediately a part of the way if I had fresh animals - may do so any how within a few days. Found here yours of May 25th & 12th June the latter containing the draft.

[illegible] about the troubles in our beloved country. My heart is full of sorrow & I must write. If you are a friend to the Union I am not a whit behind you in the righteous [illegible] way of regarding it. You have taken some of my strong (too strong perhaps) expressions more literally than I intended. But if they filled you with "sorrow & surprise" what must have been mine to find you [illegible] to such a sentiment as this. The Union - it must be preserved at all costs of money & blood!!! - a sentiment which methinks Robespierre or Marat would have choked (in uttering). Who authorised you to destroy without about 1/2 measure (of) God's master work to support a human conception. The Union is nothing more the device for safety & protection of good yet fallible man - but you will put it in the scale against [illegible] more than God made it & make the latter kick the beam as a thing of no value - light as air. Great God! - the infatuation that has possessed you! How is it that you are so blinded. The South has said pleadingly "we have lived many many years together as brethren. Now you must do us justice - let us depart in peace - be friendly neighbors - we can remain members of one family." What can be more reasonable. I shudder to think of following such a sentiment to its realization - it is horrible to think of. No! a thousand times rather a peaceful separation than a blood-cemented Union. Union! with such

circumstances the idea is absurd. As I have written before war will never reconstruct our once free & happy Union
In my lonely labors & more lonely rides I have meditated much on the state of our country & to save my life I can see no essential difference between the position of the South now & that of our fathers in 1776. These said they were oppressed & constituted themselves the judges of their own cause were called rebels & traitors were fought & hunted by the same scenes are enacting now. You say the Union must be eternal — as if it was the prerogative of infallible humanity to say what is eternal — must be any of man's devices. How many States Kingdoms and Empires promising long duration have passed away. Is it then reason to say that ours must necessarily be more enduring. We think it a very good Government. But what authority have we to affirm that it is perfect or that it is the best yet devised. Are we infallible judges in this matter. I think I see indications that a peaceful removal We have in divers instances acknowledged the right of one sub-ject States to establish themselves as independent nations — Greece for example & the various Central & South American States We very correctly the South is now pursuing now never more openly more explicitly proclaimed as right than in a speech by the other President in Congress 1848 See Congressional Globe 30th Congress 1st Session, page 94. The President doubtless has the right to change his mind especially when it is for his interest to do so. Had the border States remained neutral It is more than probable that the others would have returned But you have driven them out of the Union & are now going to force them back again. It certainly puzzles me to know what kind of a Union we will have. However the way the North goes destroys all hopes of a reconstruction. You think "Massachusetts has saved the Capital". Perhaps so. I fear she has by her over much zeal destroyed the Union. Built up as almost from the ashes of the Nullification of S. Car. Mass. has been (I believe) the leader followed by 10 other States in rendering ineffective the Fugitive Slave law. Her troops are spreading themselves over Eastern Virginia where they will be likely to garner up a strong hatred which many years will not eradicate. I am glad to acknowledge that their General inflicted on your State in the person of her Governor a merited rebuke for his fanaticism. I wrote in a former letter how little regret was manifested that the country was brought to its present deplorable condition. No expression of bloodthirsty feeling promptings for revenge or for vengeance even. Col. Ellsworth was killed by a man in his own castle — Served him right. Let him keep himself & his Arabs out of other peoples houses. Hope the rest will meet the same fate in similar circumstances. The self-assertion of this man ought to make you think that the conquest of Virginia may be no easy task. The Dutch swear vengeance. Pour yours. The war hawk one party as good a right to kill as the other. Especially haven't I a right to kill an enemy who enters my house. You call the Virginians rebels. England counts them belligerents. You don't like it. But it is the very doctrine you have always held You say I "have got a crotchet about Southerners". Why should I have? The South is my birthplace: all the scenes of childhood are there — there all my kindred — all my early friends & friendships formed since I came to manhood — all my little wealth is there. Why then I ask should I "have a crotchet about Southerners" — Why? Because I have been much among the Southern people — have received much kindness from them — know their thoughts & feelings & their ways Methinks these are ground for having something more than a crotchet. You can not believe that I have any sympathy for slavery per se. I abominate the curse

But it is a curse which the north is largely guilty of inflicting & this should teach you charity. Now I'll give you a little specimen of the northern variety of the species. It is the closing remark of Gov Randall of Wisconsin "La guerre a commencée là où est Charleston: elle doit finir là où Charleston était" He must have made a recent visit to hell to find anything so diabolical. Here is another thing I've found. "Le gouvernement fédéral vient d'opérer un coup d'état assez singulier pour reconnaître où sont ses amis et ses ennemis. Lundi, à 3 h. de l'après-midi, une descente à été opérée dans les principales stations télégraphique du Nord et les textes des dépêches à été saisis en nom des Etats-Unis. That looks a little French. You intimate to me that it won't be quite safe for me to ... what I think if I come north. Perhaps it won't & yet I should be very apt to do it. I believe it is at least constitutional that a man may ... what he pleases subject to prosecution for libel slander &c of individuals not of the Gov. I don't think our Gov is a slanderable object.

However I am strongly disposed to follow the almost unanimous advice of my friends that I keep to remain where I am. If you think I were among you I would change my mind. Possibly: yet I think that far away from the bustle & excitement of the military with an impartial journal to consult for the general run of passing events I am as favorably situated as you are to form a just estimate of them. I have not formed my opinions hastily & I doubt if I change them in a hurry. This cursed crusade against the South will effect the lasting alienation of that part of the people who had still a brotherly affection for their northern fellow-countrymen and will be primarily successful in a reuniting union only to be broken up violently at the first favorable opportunity.

[illegible] imprisoned with being
induced by party & political consideration
[illegible]
[illegible] numbers
[illegible] violating their fugitive property
— U States — more than a dozen members have nullified
the law of Congress in their favor & I cant see that any
[illegible] remained for them

You "know (I have a right good fellow at bottom". That might bear a construction not altogether flattering — but I am a little weak in the upper story. Not weak enough to follow your advice & invest my money in Gov. Stocks & "do help support the country" i.e. help one part enslave the other. Now I wont believe you meant to insult me. And yet if you will think on mature reflection [illegible] the opinions I have expressed you could not have devised a grosser offense. Sooner buy it in the South & the Union & the ocean than not [illegible] willingly one farthing to that end. — No my conviction is sincere & profound that the present war is a most unrighteous crusade against our Southern brethren. My little property I suppose I am taxed to support it but rest assured that the mite will not be augmented by my choice.

28th. As I have before written I get most of my information from the Courrier des Etats-Unis [illegible] & in 2 letters from my paternal journal. We have it down to the [illegible] & [illegible] & [illegible] &

otherwise. I am content to remain in my present belief
2. The letter G. makes the following supposition. Admit
the possibility that the Slave States should pass
peaceably as to demand the admission of "peaceable
secession" among you. Who then would secede? Perhaps you
can answer the question. For now, (one) of my own
which has often occurred to me since the breaking out of
this lamentable controversy. You deny the right of secession
other than revolution" (I don't know the difference I confess)
Now it is within the range of possibility that all the
States might take away many of the privileges of this
State—Name for instance as putting my supposition. Suppose you block up all her ports obstruct her rivers demolish
her lighthouses &c would not she be justified in seceding to
Canada. You may say such a course would be unwarrantable but not. It is it unwarrantable to [illegible] the laws of
honor. I believe there is a limit to forbearance and
injustice & that secession or revolution or rebellion or
whatever you please to call it may be justifiable &
that a State has the right to secede
in the manner that to them seems best.
We begin to get European news of the [illegible] & I am
glad to see that they are little [illegible]
to [illegible]. I don't know how reflecting men can shut their
eyes to the utter absurdity of the supposition that they can
reduce 10,000,000 of a free brave people to the condition of puppies
so that they will wag their tails & lick the hand that beats
them & then be able to say they have "saved the Union. Surely
Wisdom is fled to brutish beasts
And men have lost their reason
I trust you will [illegible] There is
no [illegible] in what I have written. I love

Pray don't throw this letter into the dust-box: read it over more
than once. Do me this favor. I have kept carefully ready all
the letters you have ever written me. This is a longer letter
than I often write but I cannot well make it shorter
I am [illegible] Boyd I would be glad that some
of my friends Barn. Tuckerman & others should know
I can give a reason [illegible]
Don't if you see no impropriety in it I would be glad
that [illegible]
[illegible] your unity or read
Indeed I am not [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] her [illegible] gone over
down to her rules.
I have been going over my dried plants mainly to [illegible]
devising them to get a temporary supply of paper for
[illegible]
They are [illegible]
to hint of [illegible]
written. There is [illegible] box by the
[illegible]
Perhaps matters may
take a [illegible] for the better by [illegible]
[illegible]
friendship I have ever shown great reference to your opinion
I trust you will excuse [illegible]
as I mean to be [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

[illegible] Wentzel Gyldenfeldt's other work which I see quite. Now I should be inclined to [illegible] when may the effect be more pleasant in parts of any of the others. If you get any thing that I know I do not delay as you have sometimes done to send them on

about [illegible] do they sell at the same [illegible] I know no other way of getting it. I wanted a set for presentation here in Boston. Can I have it? I [illegible] a piece-quotation as this but perhaps it better to ask for it [illegible] being more polite than to claim it. Still what is a "mere [illegible]" and allowing the [illegible] to do. If you will order it for me, I will [illegible] to you.

30th I have finished the perusal of the Carrier Dove for 1841 the last some 35 pages of Journalese. So I am not in total ignorance by any means of what has been going on among you. I have also read in my last Quarterly Review which is a box in Ca[illegible] for which I have written. It will probably be in by the time an opportunity offers of sending. I shall unless otherwise advised direct them thus B. Westermann Booksellers Broadway N.Y. (I don't know their number but I suppose that is not very important) You will be on the lookout for them. I have now about 50 letters to write. Some will be [illegible] But I shall need more light, so that I am compelled to ask you may send me another 100. You will understand that if for any cause you should fail or defer to send for some months it will be no matter. I can always get a temporary [illegible] in Z. who is much pleased with your [illegible] As I am through my work have meant to finish my letter, [illegible] I have a few hours of leisure I feel in the humor to be [illegible] a little more. You say in yours of May 25th "I cannot [illegible] Can Peace give

you a formula for expressing its value or Horsford?

I think I can see some good to come out of all this evil. Some good men as you & Governor Letcher say. I hope many more will go to the war. I would fain hope that the army is composed of nearly all the men of character in the South & in every case violence let us hope that the men of character & worth & influence will be saved & such as by their removal from the moral atmosphere in which they live & exert their influence will leave it more pure & less dangerous. But dear me is not so considerate in the victims he takes. There is nothing like war to a great extent. The laboring class thrown out of employment. After a while the number of them shall have been killed & there will remain fewer to do the work & your cotton lords will have to grant them better pay than they have heretofore received. Tomorrow I set out to return on the track of my late voyage so far as the road follows the coast to Savannah & more thoroughly examine them. I was able to do but little - Between & I hope a week will suffice for the excursion. By that time the Arctic will be a vessel ready to take on board. I now have on hand I am running low in many things. This paper I beg you. I have a thicker kind. Also envelopes and coat [illegible]. If you should have books to make up a package suitable for mail you would oblige me [illegible] in some envelopes & some overland paper.

Yr sincerely Mrs L. & all my friends in Beaufort & [illegible] kind regards from the

Lay sisters

Chas Lyell

Monte Verde July 29th 1861

My Dear Dr

"We are in the midst of secession & rebellion. S. Car. is gone. I rec'd the [illegible] from Ala. Miss. & Flor. going. Texas [illegible] having suffered some" Dr. G. in Ltr. 28 Dec Nov [illegible]

"[illegible] looks very blue. But there are better symptoms afloat. I guess we shall get through. S. Car. begins to suppose it is thought to be in the hands pretty much of a mob" Dr. G. in Ltr Jan. Harris supposed enough yet - going to make her suppose [illegible]

"Seriously we beseech this state of things will do all we can with a good conscience & with real allegiance to the Union to satisfy all reasonable & some unreasonable demands" Dr G. in Ltr Feb 23. Pass [illegible] probably!!

"The natural effect is that the North are getting pretty generally over to can to have States in the Union who say they have a right to cut stick when they have a mind to" Dr. G. in Ltr. Apr 2 Changed their mind some since, hey!!

In my last I wrote that on my way back from Barnesville my paper gave out & I could not collect the many nice things I saw. Field after field of cotton I saw. In fact every [illegible] the railroad [illegible] Accordingly I went to town to have my horses shod. I inquired for vessels going to N. O. There were none in & [illegible] no prospect of any. Yankee cussed war has tied up commerce & paralyzed trade. There is no telling when I will be able to get to my collections. Well I went on & [illegible] Savannah as far as [illegible] there I learned [illegible] across the ocean. I made a very good little collection. [illegible] I met with some losses. One of my two remaining [illegible] was stolen but I can manage to [illegible] with care. I lost the large [illegible] you sent me but I can [illegible] you with another. Kindly I lost the key of my carpet bag but I begged & succeeded in getting another in my absence. I had excellent

health thorough traveling & working in the rainy July sun in the lowlands too. I found on my return a letter from a certain Ph. Dumont
12 Gallatin a Yankee. He applied to Lyndlach the living near a botanical collector for Cuban plants. The letter forwarded to me the letter & I have asked him to attend to collection & offer his services. It seems a little odd that living in the same place as he can, I believe, he has not known me as a botanical collector. He appears to want to select certain families & thinks 25 fr. per cent. a fair price.
A few days since I went two leagues to a neighboring estate & the next morning took to the road with a lot of provisions & other necessaries. I began to return but it was cloudy & rained a little & I had lost my compass. Notwithstanding I reached the brow of the hill from which I could see at a short distance well known localities. However when I was in the thick woods with no sun to guide me I was soon lost. I soon struck a little path when the people had been gathering Mangaba (Tanka Pauciflora) & thought by following it I would soon reach the house. But I was at length convinced that it went in some other direction from the time I expected to reach its termination. At length I came into a plain road quite unknown to me. The left hand led back me to the Guterras river & directly away from home. When the other end went I did not know. It was pretty near night & I concluded to "go to bed" & wait for sunshine in the morning to help me out. I passed the night napping not very comfortably. Some mice amused themselves by running around over me & a wild dog passed within two or three feet of me. What was worse a thunder storm came up in the night but it did not rain much. It rained a little. The long night at last gave place to day & I left not. It soon became cloudy & I dared not leave the road otherwise I would have gone pretty directly to the house. As it was I traveled a long distance & came out of the woods some two leagues away at a place with whose owner I had some acquaintance. He fed me & gave me a horse to return to the place I leave. I had cut one I did not make a great collection but I got Pitcairnia with

fl & young fr. The char. needs some correction as to the fl. Petals 5 lateralia minima (vel abortiva?) Stamina 8-9 Arbor 1½° ± diam. 30-60° alt. Sepals ciliata. wings not ovata but purple. I must have climbed some poisonous tree or vine which left on the inside of my knees several discolored spots which are a little sore & one of them is a blister. I found the ground in one place fairly covered with the yellow potato flowers & some substance which I wanted very much but situated as I was I could not share the time & it would have been a hard task to climb the tree. Perhaps I may meet it under more favorable circumstances. My bruises are fortunately near recovered from the effects of Barbacena excursion & I shall go again on some other trip soon. But I have not yet concluded where.
We have N. York papers down to the 5th inst with the Press Mess. &c. 400000 men & 400000000 dollars. Expensive warfare at $1000 per man. I have read Mr Everetts speech. Very good & the Press too on the ground that the South is altogether wrong & the North altogether right. They appear to me to start on the assumption that the grievances complained of are imaginary & they neither offer nor suggest remedies for real ones. Well I venture to predict that if the Pres. & our legislators are so lavish of money & blood (other peoples not their own) the people will before long come to the conclusion that a little compromise a little concession at the beginning would have been a much cheaper operation than all this military monster & would have been quite as efficient by not more so in preserving the Union.
God help us as yet & the difficulty!
Yours truly
Chas Wright

Monte Verde Aug 7th 1861

Dear Sir

A few days ago came yours of the 8th ult as welcome as unexpected for I didn't look for any more letters except in answer to those I wrote from Barcoa. I am glad to know that the plants came safely. I wish you I think that I had taken up all my plants & only wait an occasion of sending them. Since then came two large boxes from Trinidad — the collection principally of Bayano — which I thought had already been brought & incorporated with the rest.

Yesterday I was in the bocadit, where I was lost some time ago. I didn't find much — the most interesting is a new Pleurothallis — a slender one 40-50° high. I found specimens of what I have called P. arborea & I can't help wondering that Grisebach could make the three so very distinct sp., mere varieties The tree from which my specimen is two feet thick at the ground & 60° high. The fr. has 5-6 styles — is nearly spherical — not at all grown between the carpels — the valves closely appressed to the seed — C. antillana on the other hand is always thick — the fr. has 4 styles — is depressed — not only between the carpels but on the back of each & is inflated or the valves are not appressed to the seed. I meant to have said in my last the fr. of Phlebotaenia* but forgot it till I had closed my letter. Today I found a new Comparettia. So you see I can still do something for botany. I am contemplating a journey overland to Atalaya. Don Juan

* It is 5-pedalled — 2 lateral ones small

Gundlach gave me introductory letters to friends in Bayamo & Baracoa which were very useful to me And now he says since I have experienced that his "recomendaciones son de valor" if I will come westward he will send me to various points where doubtless I will find "plantus nuevas" It is now however the very worst season & I am somewhat afraid to venture. So I guess I'll give this place a little more examination before I go

Aug 12. I am bothering myself with a little Ipeutian. Parts of fl. 4-merous — winged cal. & in fl. of Erythraea but not the tendrils & leaves as yet. — dilated 2 Heads to fl. & bdenmata stigma of Convolvulus but not the obtuse fl. nor bracts. On fin it is not in Ipom. & it puzzles me

23d The day after writing the above I went to ride was caught a drenching — in a steady rain of two or three hours. It was the beginning of a storm which continued all the following day. Such a rain fell as I have not before seen — a foot or 18 inches of rain I have no doubt. The ground is covered with pools in fields & hollows. Trees were blown down but it was not a hurricane of the furious kind. Generally rains at this season are accompanied with lightning & thunder but there were none this time. The rain have continued more or less ever since & the roads are bad. I have been rather waiting for letters & I should begin to think you had forgotten me but that I get news from home & papers are a month in arrear. A friend just come from Cuba says the mail service is interrupted by the employment of the steamers in the public [redacted] or other service. This will account for the non arrival of letters. I get a little — very little — news from the Habana papers down to the last of July

24th Found to day a bush of Linnaea Spazi? — Fl. mostly 7-androus — 6 — 7 — and inserted on the outside of a lobed disk. A recess between the stamens rather the groove between two contiguous lobes. The leaves appear smaller & do not quite accord with the character in shape. I think however it is the same thing I have before collected in this part of the country.

Our last papers have given the account of the fight at Bulls Run. I have gleaned from a few Habana papers some scraps of news of later date but nothing of moment.

I inclose a few lines to my sister Please forward. Adieu

Yours truly

[redacted]

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Monte Verde Sept 9th 1861

My Dear Dr.

On the 1st I got a letter from home & one fr. Bacon via Matamoras. How did you miss the chance. Keep a bright look out ahead — now that we have no regular mails to Habana

I have made frequent mention of the tinajones. The nearest one I have often examined. It lies to the east of a little north & south. At its base is a deep valley in which passes the road to Tampico & the Pinal creek. Another creek called Rio Palmas runs through this valley. Down it I have lately found another city. The high edge of that stream is a million and a half years old. It lies in the fork of these two streams. The latter one is hard coralline rock — the other is soft & crumbling. They are not more than a mile apart probably less. But what is curious about these cliffs is that I am always finding something new in them. Thus the last one gives me plenty of Xylosma buxifolium & Ch. Yon must erase the me from the name. The trunk has the same compound thorns as X. nitidum & one I found at Buena Vista. A new Zanthoxylum is growing E. A. Mearns

a Hydrolea perhaps H. spinosa. Please tell Lyn. to acknowledge the bi-ovulanity of the ovary cells if not on my authority on that of Endlicher. Tobinia ternata? I dont remember collecting it before. The leaves are as ~~c-e-g~~ as ternata a new Erodea —. Only a single fruiting [illegible] and one or two more — very small capsules that looks "quite other" as Linnæus used to say. A myrtle that looks unfamilian. A new Clidemia, an Eldagnæa a female plant. bud & fr. of all ages. Three or four Rubiaceæ. A Diospyros — a slender tree 3-6°I with fr. only. Once before I found a spec. of this in fr. also & form fr. in [illegible] & said Diospyros when I got the fl. I said Cordia & when I examined it I was in doubt. It has the stigmas [illegible] & amphitropous ovules — otherwise as in Cordia, fruiting [illegible] a fine new Salvia with white fl. in dense bracteate spikes. There is a slender [illegible] palm which I collected scantily at Laguna de Tamamo but I found no fl. nor fr.

5th Looking again at what I called Tobinia ternata I find the details wrong & which [illegible] Lyn. excludes it. 21 is dioecious - parts of fl. in 3's I look it for granted that it was Tobinia & did not examine the ovary.

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Monte Verde Oct 24th 1861

My Dear Dr

There is a vessel the Ino as Quartermaster. I have packed up all my plants 10 good cases and shall take them down in a day or two for shipment. There is to be Dr Rowan there to attend to Major Lee's sick list. The packages are marked "B. Western Reserve Hospital Boston Rockaller Ve." Let me know when to send for them on the receipt of my letter. The Indians are all kept out of sight. It seems to me we ought to have something from Lt by this time.

I am afraid if anything comes from Baton it will be years in transit to reach me for Habana where I am pretty well established to go as soon as the roads become passable. They are bad now But the rains are ceasing apparently

During my last excursion in Monte Yore I found a new Lythraceous plant — new genus perhaps — certainly different from anything in Engl. I enclose a scrap & you'll get plenty when you get the rest. I would call it Lythrum pisa collaris. It is a bush 15"–20" high. You can bin one. There is a similar looking bush at present enough in one locality but I incline to think it is not identical. The spec. are packed up & I've not compared. Neither is in flower. The accessory leaflets, forming a sort of collar slightly lobed & reflexed. Day after tomorrow I leave my cold. to Salerno. I will then add whatever may be necessary to say further in P.S. Yours truly Chas Wright

P.S. Could you send a few seeds of Datura Stramonium (The leaves) There is a report that it kills cockroaches & my friends want to try to exterminate.

Nov 3d We have the paper to the 15th ult. It rains every day "in showers" with occasional "thunders" that does express it but "malicious" or "infernal" as I heard it expressed yesterday.

I took my cold to the village. as above They will go on the 2nd or within a few days I hope.

If the weather don't dry up soon I shall go for an range & indeed can you send me in a letter a map of maps of the seat of war? C. W.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

NEW-YORK SHIP LETTER
DEC 2
5

My Dear Dr. Nouvelle Sophie 24 Nov 1861

The 20th I set out on my journey which is I am pursuaded will end at least for a time at "la Habana." At Saltadero I got your letter or letters of the 7th & 25th ult. & also the papers in the package. One Third "mor ofp." is encouraging. Who would have thought Fossidea would turn out so many species. I have many a time heard the old upturned clay root on which Mrs Mitch was found in on the east side one of the west. I remember perfectly that they appeared to me distinct & I put them up separately from. Per it is true the two sps. of the same gen. should grow each by itself & separate only by a ridge a few inches in thickness. This upset a tradition one. If still had more side his bread was buttered & had gone long ago a small fraction of the satisfaction which this report gives me. I doubt not his coll. would have felt its influence.

Eaton has forwarded a box of electronic prepared by my sister to which he has added some things a list of all which he has sent me — but he says "and things for H. Bird" I guess he has forgotten it. Will — don't just now feel "good."

If you have got two letters you know why I did not send by "that Boston vessel" I shant "run" into Saltadero as easily as you can into Boston & trusted to the word of one of the Mrs Brooks for notice of the sailing of a vessel. As you know meanwhile went to Cuba or elsewhere & did not receive the promised advice. The road have been especially

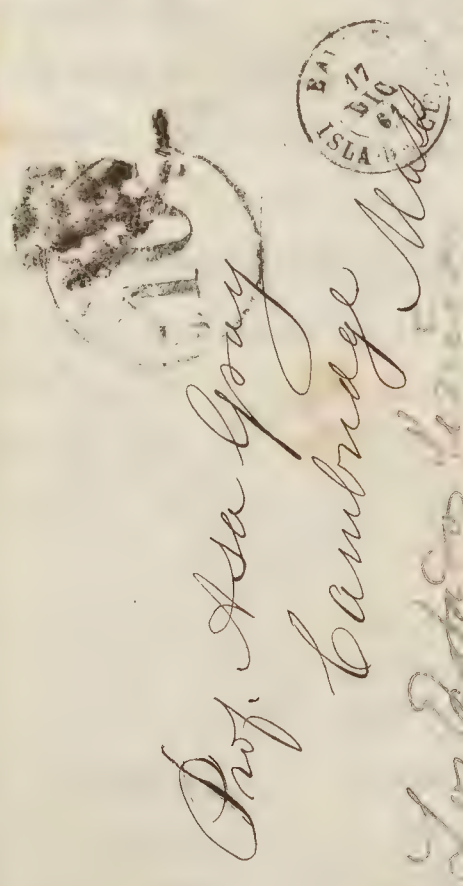
I cant call to mind the locks of Phaseolus lunatus you speak of. Schradera asphaltorum I remember well. The orth. grow in the way

powe yours it ready then will give you more
to take enough of Lonanthus. If not I can
get a plenty more. The new Lonanthus is a
rare plant. I have found it in certainly not more than
two & I believe in but one Road bound. The
last admittance contains a few spec. Grows
in that final region which has furnished so
many queer things though not in the Road
itself. It grew near throughout in the bank
of the Road Creek. Lower down on the bank
is Nuvia racemosa from which I gathered the
other day some fruit very acceptable. I suppose
you have not as seeds as when we did it
know what it was. A little lower down is the
point where I found Lantana pseudo-Lippia
for I believe the latter I found was on
a sandstone for - perhaps all from one root
But you don't say what Lyn has done
with Lucia trifoliata haw! haw!! I am
unable to call to mind the appearance
of Gonopetalum volubile. On my way here
from Baltadar I found a new Passiflora
with a crown quite rudimentary - only here and
there a short filament.

I am [illegible] - contents part of the Magnolia
still sent thence by ship to Cuba a week ago has come
a year ago
safe now. When I determined to send not to carry
my self. I wrote to Cuba begging B.V.C.O to send the
box to the Cairnanera (Guantanamo) the Port of Baltadar
the next answer was that he could not be found. I
send a description back. This brought the reply that it
was found and was to be forwarded that very day. Since
have supply no more endeavours about it. It can
[illegible] to be sent
with the box it cannot be found. Well yesterday
a reading that it (or B. Cubensis) was in Cuba I (begged
B.V.C.O to send it by the returning "Arria" (train packmules)
and "any thing else" if there was anything. Well to my
gratification & disappointment at the same time the
former box came & the latter didn't. So you will
have a small part of the last four years gath-
erings till I send again & I must wait till I
go to town to know if my box & clothing has come.
I think not
I shall miss most the water-proof things. For other
things I can get along.

We have the Journals down to the 5th inst. From
which we suppose by this time know the disposition of the
great armament. I hope they will soon do some-
thing, or relieve us from this suspense
anything else. (Later papers make known the destination
25th! I have examined the plants in the box for Hay-
ti & there is no more mould than the day I sent
them off. They are in first rate condition. Thank you
and them. 27th Got my boxy clothing at last.
Filadelfia Dec. 3 When about to get into Port
N.Y. Nov 2. sent a negro to N. Sophie on my pack-
horse & hurt his back. Hurt it very badly com-
pel here & I don't know now when I will be again on the
road. It is dry now & I long to be away. Meanwhile I
spent a day or [illegible] I
mean to get to Loma del Gato in a day or two. Can
save enough for you to [illegible] No matter now
If my horse is not soon in condition to travel I may
go by steam. to Holguin. Another plan I have thought
of - to take me more down by Bayamo. Holguin
Nuevitas then sell my horses go by [illegible] baggage
to Nuevas - & from there home - when I get ready -
to return one more to this part of the island
[illegible] I'm all in the mud. I hope not for a long time
ther. It has lasted a week & more. I have made 3
excursions on La Gunea & L. del Cautivo. Some
[illegible] We have [illegible]
[illegible] with all the memoirs about it.
Adieu, I hope
hanging I.D.o pirates. I read such stuff
any. I don't see what good it can now do the prisoners
ing is reduced to insignificance I am no advocate of

blood is not communication with any human
creature. If you would put in among the cattle
Beecher, Sumner, Garrison & such cattle
you could do more and in a way to
Bayard no 16. Now I might as well wind
up this journal. Got here today — mean to
go on in two or three days. Here to keep
going till I get to some good stopping
place not far to Stockton (how the
bite!)



You had better not write again after the
receipt of this till you get further instruct-
ions. We'll get near Stockton on the 20th
by the Arithmetic we have — can see through
& will give you notice now to address me
& how regard to the 25th

Yours ever

Charles Darwin

Lamar Station 2d Jan. 1862

My Dear Dr

Leaving Bayamo I fell back on my old Texas habits — camping out & it fits me like an old shoe. It is winter & I pick up of course but a slender variety of plants enough however to keep me in health & to strengthen my purpose to return by the same route in the spring. Of a considerable number of new plants I collect a plenty — of quite a number more. I get few or single specimens or scraps — the laggard of the autumn flora. Of plants which I know pretty well as to sp. Manilea — an Ammania (C. v. Nuttallia Wh.) never seen before — a new Acisanthera = A pellucida or subalata (name the one already sent A. glandulosa mihi) a Drosera which dont exactly agree with Lyon's two I preserve some specs. but they are so nearly invisible that I lost them) sp. a Utricularia — U. pallidiana. Mihi — a Rhamnacea not in Lyon — a Polygonaceous bush with no trace of stipular sheaths. — a Liliaceous one with large white flowers with a 10-leaved involucel like some Malv. & bundles of sterile filaments alternating with the fertile — the seeds winged above like some Dermostoma I cant now think of others for I packed up every thing I had & sent the bundle to Trinidad to a gentleman to whom I had an introductory letter & so considered him almost an acquaintance — I brought this letter thus to carry it to Habana — my roses having as much load as they ought to carry which it is augmenting a little every day. When I return in the Spring I can go by way of that place & take or beg my friend to

forward it to Cuba. I lost my licencia & now have to go through the circumlocution office to get another. I hope to arrange the matter today but shall not be afraid surprised if it requires more time. I find here two country men a painter named Story of the family of old Judge Story and a photographist very much crowded with business - neither speaking Spanish. The latter wanted me to assist him & I shall propose to stay with him a few days for the benefit of my horses and if I am delayed in arranging my licence business it will prevent ennui from killing me & perhaps gain me a few dollars. They seem clever young fellows. I find here a N. Y. Herald the account of the burning of Charleston & the tremendous excitement produced in Johnbulldom by the unparalleled outrageous impertinent audacious intolerable insufferable unbearable violation of the most sacred soil of Her most Britannic Majesty by the vile Yankee Filibusters I dont know how much substance (abstracted from the noise) there is in all this but I guess it will quiet down & that Johnbullies will be wise enough not to bite off their own nose to spite their face. I cant say I have read the papers I have only glanced at them. God grant that the troubles may ~~quell~~ quiet down & that all the descendants of her Majestys different nationalities may have the wisdom to live in peace & harmony among themselves.

I am at work with the photographist may I go again to the Governor to see if I can get a permit to go on. I shall not be at all surprised if I have to come back to Matanzas

[illegible] they have proved

[illegible] it my horses & may possess this advantage

Yours

Ingenio Fermina
Bemba Feby 1/1862

My Dear Dr

Home again — almost. I am as comfortable as in Monte Verde. Comfortably loged & so well fed that if the Metropolitan was no more than ten steps away & I had free entrance I would stay where I am — with my good friend Gundlach & my generous host Don Simon de Cardenas. I arrived here the 28th

I wrote to you fr. Santo Espiritu — left there the 16th. My horses came back to me from pasture lean & apparently worn out. Instead of resting & recruiting they had been put to hard service. I had to travel slowly & after one night at a posada (inn) when my saddle blanket — a new one — was stolen I took to camping again The 24th I came to an Ingenio (sugar estab) & stayed 4-5 days — the next day here. Four leagues before reaching Villa Clara came to very hilly savanas — much more inlaced than our rolling prairies. They afforded me very little — for dry. Three days I traveled through palmales — palm savanas. I got quite a number of nice things — 4 sp. Viticulatis

It is now too dry to do much. but Dr Juan & myself are chalking out plans for the spring work

We will go to Cardenas in a few days. Away S. W. of Habana lives a man named Blain much interested in botany. He has on his estate all sorts of land valley, river, mountains or at least hills & cliffs To it he has brought & planted in situations adapted to them many trees not found originally there Among them is an oak. I shall go there. In fact this place & its owner who speaks english well are strong attractions for me. Gundlach knows all the good places about here & his name is a passport to go anywhere. He is a most zealous zoologist so exclusively given to science that he never looks at a newspaper. I have brought & sent him at times new shells & that even if he had any selfishness which he has not would have put my name in his books. I first made his acquaintance in Yateras. I am resting just now after my long journey. Even if I was fresh there is not much to be done it is so dry. If the rains commence early so that I can give the Western Department a tolerable examination & then improve the spring or early summer in my return to Cuba — well & good — I think I see signs of another years stay. I am watching his process of bird-skinning — taking lessons as it were & I think hereafter I'll be able to put up decent looking specimens. Perhaps this will enable me to improve the time when I have not much botany to do

I suppose you can send me money. I dont know how the financial crisis affects exchange between the North & Cuba. but I presume you can find means to send me $150 within a couple of months. Tell me about it when you answer this which I hope you will do the first opportunity. And now that I am so near Habana & Cardenas you see will be able to send at any time almost by sailing vessels. I hope you have some books for me. Direct letters as follows

Sr. D. Simon de Cardenas
Injenio Fermina. Bemba

For Mr Wright

Fermina is the sugar estate & Bemba the little village two leagues away toward Habana. The railroad passes within 200 yds of the house — I send some cacti plants & Melanandra Hook for Primulac. but I begin to suspect that it is Scrophl. for slightly irregular purple, anthers black or nearly so. I found another locality of D. pollicaris & send some of that. I dont think the Oxalis can be any form of O. corniculata It is quite prostrate creeping & rooting at the joints & margin of rivulets. Give me your opinion

Don Simon tells me that I have gained some advantages

Yours cordially

Cha

If you have any books or other parcel send as follows as according is convenient

Habana { Sr Don Felipe Poey, Calle de Amistad 120 / Sr Don Luis Le Riverend, Calle de Aguiar 42

For Charles Wright

Cardenas: Srs. Casanova, Hermanos & S

For Juan Gundlach

We will go to Cardenas in a few days. Away S. W. of Habana lives a man named Blain much interested in botany. He has on his estate all sorts of land valley, river, mountains or at least hills & cliffs so it he has brought & planted in situations adapted to them many trees not found originally there among them is an oak. I shall go there. In fact this place & its owner who speaks english is a strong attraction for me. Gundlach knows all the good places about here & his name is a passport to go anywhere. He is a most zealous zoologist so exclusively given to science that he never looks at a newspaper. I have brought & sent him at times new shells & that even if he had any selfishness which he has not would have put my name in his books. I first made his acquaintance in Yateras. I am resting just now after my long journey. Even if I was there is not much to be done it is so dry. If the rains commence early so that I can give the Western Department a tolerable examination & then improve the spring or early summer in my return to Cuba—well & so not—I think I see signs of another years stay. I am watching his process of bird skinning—taking lessons as it were & I think I can after I'll be able to put up decent looking specimens. Perhaps this will enable me to improve the time when I have not much botany to do

I suppose you can send me money. I dont know how the financial crisis affects exchange between the North & Cuba. but I presume you can find means to send me $150 within a couple of months. Tell me about it when you answer this which I hope you will do the first opportunity. And now that I am so near Habana & Cardenas you & will be able to send at any time almost by sailing vessels. I hope you have some books for me. Direct letter as follows

Sr. D. Simon de Cardenas
Injenio Fermina, Bemba

For Mr Wright

Fermina is the sugar estate & Bemba the little village two leagues away toward Habana. The railroad passes within 300 yds of the house — I send some little plants of Melanandra look for Primulac. but I begin to suspect that it is Scrophs. Cor slightly irregular purple, anthers black or nearly so. I found another locality of C. polifolius & send some of that. I dont think the Oxalis can be any form of O. corniculata It is quite prostrate creeping & rooting at every joint—wet margins of rivulets. Give me your "sayer" about these little chaps

Don Simon tells me that the last news is that the federals have gained some advantages. No particulars

Yours cordially
Chas Wright

Mejia Mar. 23. 1862

My Dear Dr.

In my last I told you I was going to the Cienaga de Zapata. I am domiciliated about three leagues from it — have been to it twice — once returned the same day once camped out & made a little more than two half days of it. The first day the Zoologists - Grundlach & Blanco didn't do a big business — nor I neither. The second they killed 4 snow geese & I got a lot of plants Here are several familiar face — Dissyrynchium, Proserpinaca, Cephalanthus, Nymphaea, Nuphar. Utriculerias, Potamogeton &c A tree with singular flowers of which I have found only the ♂ I can refer only to Nortica- ceæ though not much like others of the family in appearance. It has ~~flow~~ 3 fl. within an inflated rather fleshy white involucre cleft on one side. The Nuphar has leaves a foot long or more 2/3 as broad. The Nymphaea differs from the two in lyre — for N. ampla in the connective of the anthers not produced into a long appendage — leaves not sinuate — the sepals have no purple lines. The stipules are connected. In N. Ridgeana in the diurnal expansion of the fl. — their larger size (pet 2½' long). Of the Utricularias one is a yellow-many-flowered sp. the other 2 fl. purple with yellow palate. I guess the Cienaga is the native country of Nasturtium brevipes Grundlach pointed out to me a willow at a distance but a man of whom he inquired said there are no fl. now — I have a remark to make on Cicca C. Antillana I have seen many times in fl. and always some time after the leaves were fully grown. On the

contrary to. scandens has the fl. and leaves contemporaneous. according to several observations & to. arborea (if the spec. collected at Mata should belong to it) puts out its fl. & leaves at the same time (found in fl. only once)

28. Returned today from another excursion to the Cienaga. Found another Utricularia a Pontederia & the willow with perhaps enough (& little enough) fr. to determine the sp. I don't think it can be S. Humboldtiana given by Gris as Cuban. added another orchid (few specimens) to my coll. A large showy sp. collected a few spec. of another Nymphaea agreeing with N. Amplas Kyes it's the same that I found at Hato del medio. Learn that there are letters for me at Fermina. Will return in two or three days

29 Collected a Myrica (M. Cubana perhaps) & a Bactris. a palm (few spec.) - a Badiera. Compared the two Nymphaeas. Quite distinct.

Ap. 1st Now square yourself to get a blessing! Early in Nov. I sent off my last remittance of plants since then I have written (as many as 5 or 6 letters & in all, I guess, I have expressed great anxiety to know that they reached you. Now comes your letter of 21st Feb. & I am in just as much doubt as ever. There is indeed in it a clause which gives me some hope "But we wait to get returns on the acct of your later collection". I know you are "driven to" "bitter destruction" "by work" but must tell me about it for that makes more — ~~yet~~ answer my question. A good while ago I asked you if I could have a set of the mosses which I had promised to Lesquereux. Will you tell me — yes — or no. Will you tell me in as few words as possible if the plants have come I expect to keep on & on & on repeating these & any such questions I have to make till I get a plain answer.

"O! happy man!" Wish you could have peeped through a crack at me the last three weeks You would have been tempted to exclaim "Oh! miserable hog" Nobody knows how much filth I swallowed & thought I should ~~for~~ two nights I have not before experienced such cold as at that place & in the low lands. But it is a sorry dog who speaks ill of the bridge that has brought him safe over As at Josephina I was treated hospitably to rest and all according to the ability of the owner.

I collected yesterday in the Cienaga a Cassia with bifid fr. & long narrow leaves. Returning I got full grown leaves. The seeds are in pods in a different shape from all the other Cassias I have collected. I am hardly in the humor to send you anything even if the leaves were dry which they are not — or perhaps I might enclose a bit.

I see that a steamer sails tomorrow "antes o despues" = "sooner or later". So I shall give this a shove in the morning & if you get it well — & next it will go next time, maybe. I want bad something on the Nymphaeas to see I am rationally after the name of this thing or that & I want answer — more than that it is of such or such family. Don't forget to answer my question

Yours truly
Charles Wright

The stipules are free & fugacious (Linnaeus & Willdenow)

Mr. John G. Wright
Rothesfield
Conn
United States

San Jose June 17th 1862

My Dear ,

Five consecutive rainy days is what I have not witnessed in Cuba till now. This "spell of weather" ended yesterday. One could not venture a quarter of a mile from the house without an even chance of getting a wetting before he could get back. Today I went on an excursion into the hills which I had intended to make on the first of the rainy days I have been here more than three weeks & have not yet had a right good excursion. A negro boy went with me & as is generally the case he was more plague than profit. He carried a box to collect with & for his master & such a thing in such woods is about as portable as an umbrella spread. I thought M. Verde his thickets & entanglements - but it cant keep up with these woods. I find some novelties as might be expected. Phlebotenia is not rare I got pretty well grown fr. I have examined again carefully the flowers & find them 5-petaled - two lateral ones small. The stam. vary in number 7-9. I hope you will have the errors corrected when an opportunity occurs. It is here a small tree - less than the one I found in Yateras. Don Jose Blain - mine host - takes much interest in botany & collects all the trees & shrubs which are of any interest for beauty, utility or curiosity. He saves specimens for his botanical friends & plants in the garden or has arboles a young tree. He has a number that I have not met with. He keeps a catalogue of every-thing with its trivial name & its botanical name if he knows it. He has by hook or crook learn-

ed the names of many which I do not know & in turn helped him w the names of some unknown to him. He has accumulated what knowledge he possesses on the old fogy system of "andreas" & "gynics" & he sticks to it a good deal. Sauvalle – Don Jose's brother-in-law has a considerable herbarium of the shrubs & trees principally, of the island but rather poor specimens I thought from the few I looked at. He lives in Habana I was there the last days of May. It's a nasty place Dust dust & more dust when it don't rain & when it does you have puddles pools, pools of mire. They give me pere growing accounts of the flora of the savannas a few leagues farther west. I am about 20 leagues westward of Habana right at the foot of the Ranges. range of mountains. They are not very high but rocky & steep with abundance of forbidden where I always find something good. P.S. I want something on the monopetalæ. I am vexed that you did not print on the receipt of the mass. There must need be a supplement or something of the kind and it appears to me that it would have been better to prompt as fast as possible. It was to have been done by the end of last year if I remember well.

23d Returned today from a visit of two or three days to Retiro the other place of Don Jose. I collected quite a number of plants for his garden which tho' indigenous in other parts are not found here or rarely – the oak included. I shall probably have occasion to put down Retiro as a locality many times. I sent you in one of my last letters a scrap of a Cascaria with ripe capsules. Don Jose says it is described in La Sagra as a Sapindaceous plant – odd enough if true

2/12 I got $141 for the drafts you sent me – 6 p.c. discount

When I was in Habana 6 days – I had a troublesome diarrhœa and it still continues to some extent – that is – if I eat a little too much (& who don't sometimes?) I suffer from indigestion. I am naturally of costive habit & this change continuing so long I am unmanned as to the necessaries. and somehow I don't feel so energetic as I used to do – fancy maybe. I have a good appetite & am obliged to bridle it which is an unpleasant task. We have a nice little creek a short distance from the house where I can go & bathe as often as I please

I get the Habana paper every day but lately it contains little or nothing from the United States. It appears to have been no mail in some time or else "Dos Hermanos" have run away with my letters. Nothing from home since 20th Ap. I am impatiently awaiting the coming of Grisebach in order to make our excursion together into the "Vuelta abajo" or "down the country" that is to the westward – down the way the wind blows The Melastomads bother me amazingly. We must either have several genera not in Gris or the gen. will have to be divided & new ones established or the gen. char. enlarged to admit such as are now excluded by slight differences of floral structure.

There is a work on Jamaican botany – Macfadyen I believe or some such name. Is it complete & can you get it for me without sending to England? If it does not contain the monopetalæ Endogens it will be little better than Gris. – perhaps not as good

May "sayes" on the Clusias you can send to Grisebach. I would be glad this you do so if you can conveniently.

Inclosed is an address whereby to send letters

I send for Jr. [illegible]

cell is generally abortive or smaller

As ever

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Santa Lucia Aug 4th 1862

My Dear Dr

Day before yesterday I returned from an excursion of a few days up South & west of here into the savanas beyond the famous "vueltabajo" — the tobacco district. I had a good time so far as relates to the weather & tried up superbly the many novelties I found. I might have staid longer with profit probably may I am almost certain of it but I hoped to find Gundlach here on my return with whom I am to make an excursion westward in the mountains. He has not yet come & keeps me in a most distressing state of uncertainty. He is to bring me the books and clothing of which I have here a scanty store but plenty in Habana — also some papers of which I have a very small quantity left. I have written asking Mr Lesueur to send me a quantity from Nuevitas. It will be some time before I know if he send it as I think he will however. I have put you up bits of a considerable number of the smaller plants such as I thought likely to be new. If you have time to look them over & give me your <u>names</u> — well: if not I shall see to. Some of them are very common & if they are not described it must be owing to the fact that no bot-

aimat has ever visited that part of the island
Blain was there a few years ago not for collecting
but on other business & describes to me various
plants which I did not meet with. I find Brazenia
a second sp. of Nymphaeaceae & Nymphaeaceae
Iris, Eriocaulaceae. There are a dozen or more Melastomaceae
— the loathing things: many grasses & Cyperaceae
a new Typhaceae Cannaceae & 2 or 3 more
ferns. The pine has [illegible] leaves in a sheath —
hence different from that eastward. I saved no
specimens as it is not the season for fl. nor cones
I have the same to say of the palms though my
small store of paper would have prevented me
from collecting them to any extent. There are
3 Hypericaceae among my specimens two not
before collected. Blain describes another in the hills
whither I am going tomorrow if a toe now lame
will permit me to travel

I enclose a letter to my brother. Perhaps Mrs G
can get a laugh out of it if she feels in a cheerful
mood these sad gloomy times. I can't afford to
write such stuff more than once but by sending
it to its destination on the roundabout road you
may get the good of it if good there be. I am
getting to despair of the 2nd pt. of Plant. Wright.
But I want to ask you one question relative
to it. Will it have any polypetala such new
ones as went on in the last remittance? Or
will it be restricted to the Monopetala?

Your last to me is April 1st — very ancient

Yours truly Chas Wright

~~Santa Cruz~~ San José Aug 13th 1862

My Dear Dr

This morning came your of the 12th inst. Glad to learn that you are better. Thanks for the bit of reading enclosed. Darwin's book will soon come. The other day got a bit of what I have taken for Bordeia and gave it another examination. Now appears to me to be an error in the character given the position of those which you made in his description of Philotrema. I have never been able to find in repeated examinations the slightest trace of the small lateral pleats. On returning the new Gen. Plantarum (a new edition of it) I hope it will be reduced in size by the exclusion of a class of repetitions which augments the text to no small amount. I allude to such expressions as "Folia Spiralia" in every genus of the huge fam. Rubiae. "Fl. hum." in the Myrt. and such like in other places which belong perfectly to the ordinal characters in the subordinate tribes or sections. Bent. would have been quite a portable book if all such needless repetitions had been avoided

I got the other day what appears to be a new Symplocos. In a few days you will get (I hope) a big letter containing bits of my late gatherings in the Tuolumbaja. Since my return I have made two excursions into the mountains to the northward & westward. The former which gave me most novelties is Melesio. I which I have about a dozen new ones (the best species). It is low

made a lot of Chania genera. I got one which is a Pleurothrix in every thing except that the anth. open by one great gaping fissure. What sort of a Chania has it better make it. None at all you'll say perhaps & I agree to.

14th. Today went to look for tr. of Phlebodium — but it has all disappeared — couldn't find one or the ground near above it. Got a second sp. of Banara & a couple of fruits. Another thing a bush with young fr — Myrsine? D. muronata. Are we to keep pit viper to finish. Can you send me seed of Manila cockroach. Prien Blain would like to cultivate it

17th. Gundlach has come & brought me the two books. 3 parts are the genera that I already have one only is new — I have looked over the mosses (you may possibly remember that when I returned from my first visit to Cuba Mr. James was at your house & examined the mosses. You sent a bit of one to Sullivant. Immediately came back the glad tidings when did it come from? for it was a real find. I have sent the same abundantly & yet I don't find it unless possibly it is Pilotrichum filicaulum which in the spec. sent has more fr. & it is not a n. sp. as it seems.

24th I am out of paper & awaiting the arrival of some in order to make another excursion westward. Mr Leseuille sent me some to Habana but the merchants who forwarded it wrote that it contained plants. Hence Gundlach did not bring it. However the weather for some days has been "catching" or threatening although it has not rained a great deal

We (Gundl. & cgs) have bruised ourselves in Dodonaea. I have tried the virtues of Gris. part IV. and have not succeeded very well with it. Of a number of Rubiaceae Comp. Myrsinac. &c examined I have been able to identify hardly a single one

This place belongs to "Señor Don Francisco A. Sauvalle." who lives in "Habana Calle de Acosta No 32" He as well as Prien Blain takes much interest in the flora of the island & has a considerable herbarium of shrubs & trees principally When Bl. Cub. Pl. appears send him a copy & any other thing for me you had better send through him as almost daily communication is kept up between him & Blain who directs his business here & whose sister moreover is Sauvalle's wife. Sauvalle is a native of Charleston but has been many years here & besides this place owns several others in different directions which I shall visit as soon & opportunity will allow.

Kind regards to Mrs G.

Yours truly

Charles Wright

San Jose Sept 8th 1862

My Dear Dr

The Columbia on her last trip brought me no letters & 2 far no books. I want the books so much that I would willingly dispense with the letters. But to get neither is treating me shabbily. You wrote me that two more parts of Lyis. had been sent to N.Y. & they ought to have been forwarded. I wrote you that I could determine but few of the species with the 4th pt. of Lyis. I have since examined quite a number of plants with no better results. There are here this sp. what I guess to be Delairia Bie is probably Richards B. Spinosa & I should not be at all surprised if it is. Lyis back's B. mucronata which he seems to have established on the narrowest possible ground. There is another Legum. which I have sent in the greatest abundance - must be akin to Swartzia — Fl. with keel petal only — Legum. wing & orbiculum sessile. Why Lyis overlooked or neglected this & others as some Menyanthaceae Gentianaceae & c I dont know & he does not say

It is now nearly a year since you wrote me any thing of the sale of plants. Naturally I want to know something of the results pecuniary of my labors. The proceeds ought to be bringing me something & it is almost an age that I have no letter from Tuckerman. To hear fr. Curtis is of course out of the question. I have money enough for some time to come especially if I remain here & hereabouts

but the prospect of discounting 12-15- perhaps 20 per cent scares me— I shall want the new edition of Endlicher just as soon as it can possibly be procured. The war drags its slow length along— I am getting pretty well contented to remain here & let you fight it out as you can. I am collecting shells particularly & insects to some extent some birds & reptiles. If you know any one who wants buy shells speak a good word for me I am in good health. Kind regards to Mrs G.

As ever
Yours truly
Chas Wright

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

San José Sept 28th 1862

My Dear Sir

Send me two postage stamps if you can spare them & if you want me to collect any more debts for you I can put in them for nothing. Love &c.

P.S. Bah! I've just read your note & will wait a minute for it as I am ashamed of having written it.

A year ago Waterman would you seriously have thought it possible that you could print in Pike Co. Mo. a paper on Bah. Sch. Hasn't he?

Three weeks ago I went on an excursion with Waterman & Northcutt. I collected a good many novelties considering the state of the weather which was rainy. But being with Gundlach & Northcutt I had to collect a collection of shells. We were gone two days & returned (on the last day travelling 7 leagues on foot over a mountain road up hill & down - muddy slippery wet & rainy generally. Gundlach starts tomorrow for Hot Springs & will send me my horses when I shall go over a part of the first interesting of the same route again, & see on the peaks of Guadalupe. After that I mean to go to the Yosemite Valley

I got a letter from home by last steamer by which I know that you received the 2 or 3 letters I sent on my return from Monterey. I am always glad to hear from you but just now I would rather get three or four cents worth of fish than half a dozen letters. If Eaton & Wise send them by the steamer I shall be "cumin mad" till they come & had better look out for a thrashing when I see them.

Bi cette mesa copy of the new Bitter Smith

San Jose Oct 13th 1862

My Dear Dr

A few words on business

[illegible] the most easy way [illegible] to secure me and I want to know if [illegible] or accompany the discharge on Ab. Fitch [illegible] and if there is any mistake in the [illegible] I can afford to lose. Please see what you can do in this matter

I wrote Letch nothing yet to hear from him. Doubtless you can send from Boston for these generally we receive letters in the Eastern mail [illegible] Letters for Boston & [illegible] or other mail to Boston

I suppose you hear nothing more days from Mrs Lewis. Let me hear & communicate freely with Mr Berkeley and if there are any refunds in my behalf I would like to have them. Truly yours &c &c

Yr satisfaction—flattering my vanity if you will—

of very much information — I can however, glean generally something from these books even if I don't well comprehend much of them — they give a kind of encouragement which I need in collecting these plants which I want study — Now I have yet more Ackerman has had in hand the Lichens. A year ago he wrote for me asking if we could print a paper on them in the Proceedings &c. Whether we can do so or not I do not know. I would like to see some sign of a report on these plants — Nothing yet from Hooker on the Hepaticae? There are some books for me in Helena but I don't know what they are as the letter has gone with them Edwards wife & children are ill. He sent the letter off to his brother & will tell me what the books were.

Goodrich returned to Helena two weeks ago — Trimble to Fort Benton. With a few days from this date my horses will be sent to Helena — then I shall go there for them & home for mine. I shall feel home at last, & make longer trips & more important excursions than I have yet done. The weather is warm for some days past yet I have something almost every day. Our letters & papers will form much entertainment. We have now a part of the Cupressineae to do. A great many plants awaiting other Fuciaceae. The staff of life (flour) will end all over Sunday. A change then in the

prospect or intervention when he talks of moving all "Diatoms" "Ferns" "Equisetaceae" into one order of acrogens at once the great family of Ferns!!! — We in many other faults the work that I have read. Nearly the same species are not included in it. The species get them & take it apart — the specific-simple-fusion the organs

15th Yesterday I was ill [illegible] in the morning & what a more strange dream got a fracturing I've got home and one new thing at least Diphtheria. In the description there is one rather unpleasant disease and one other or more may. She may is not [illegible] as I infer from the specimens of [illegible] Generally I make well (enough) once or twice I thought I detected a third radicle. Between each stipule the ovule is a type of very white hairs = thy [illegible]

I wish to remind you that I have only three letters from you the present year. Those not very long ones. I don't mean to say that you have written no more. The last is more perhaps etc.

22 The mail steamer came to Helena on the 18th. I get yet no letters. Though the [illegible] mail has [illegible] the Missouri water but I am growing hardened to such disappointments & shall keep [illegible] if the letters — shall be agreeably disappointed if I do — 23d none have come — To return to the subject with which I began this letter. From the papers I see that the [illegible] Bot. Club

about 10 p.c. more than the above and thereby may will soon be 60 p.c. Manifestly there is about than I can afford to lose. I shall have to move on as economically as I can till spring & then come home when I hope I can subsist on the proceeds of daily labor. Our here of the main object is to study economy rationally it will operate to diminish almost all my collections. I hope Genfix or you can modify my suggestion that you will be able to study up some other plan by which I can get money at par or with only a small discount and please write me immediately or by the first mail. I may not get a letter from Cuba, & will send my letters to Havana stating I leave the 20th & probably shall not go there —. He will send also the books which are in Havana & hope & trust. I shall dispatch the letter to Habana tomorrow but dont care to have it would go thence the mails are irregular and irregular Weather an obliger

Yours Truly

Charles Wright

Miss Gray

Cincinnati

Ohio

Habana Oct 25th 1862

My Dear Dr

I came here yesterday mainly in quest of those books so long expected & desired. Nothing. Time & money lost. Return today. I shall want money bye & bye not soon I hope. I cant discount 40/100. 60/100 or perhaps cent. per cent. The question is shall the main object be to study economy or shall I go on as heretofore making excursions not very expensive but requiring the outlay of more or less cash every day till this western part of the island shall be as well examined as the eastern part? I have thoughts that then might be due me something in London or Paris or elsewhen abroad & that remittances might be sent me thence direct. Or it may be the the exchange fr. Europe to America (20 p.c.) & that fr. N. York via Habana will neutralize each other. You can tell & you must let me know something of such matters if you dont want me to come home & make one more enemy? to combat. Your last is now (85) eighty-five days old. I dont care to take any part in the Kilkenny-cat scuffle. I hoped to see the Union restored. That hope has grown fainter every day till there is hardly a shadow left. I should consider it impossible did we not see continually so many unexpected things take place.

My horses are on the way to the Vuelta abajo & I shall soon be away on my excursions into parts yet unexamined. It has been very rainy lately & the roads are horrid but I shall go first into the hills where there will not be much mud nor high waters to obstruct me & the rains will soon cease when I can go any where at will. I have been collecting more or less almost every day. Some I hope will prove new. Doubtless many will be duplicates. Has Tuckerman published any thing yet?? He asked you a year ago if he could print a paper in Proc. Am. Ac. Any thing from Goodale? You don't hear fr. Curtis but cant you get me something on Cuban Fungi direct fr. Berkeley? These things if they dont instruct me much act as a stimulus. I mailed a letter yesterday on my way here (not their expecting to come so far) somewhat of the tenor of this but probably it will not be here in time to go by the Eagle which sails at 10 today. If you get it well if not—no matter. Now dont let another mail pass without writing me at length—you can afford to do so after such a long silence. And be sure that those books are sent particularly the two parts of Gris on Monopet. It will be better to send all such things to care of F. A. Sauvalle Calle de Acosta No 32 And whenever you have anything to spare on Cuban plants inclose a copy for him Syn. Pl. Wr. Pt. 2. When may we look for it?

I hope you & Mrs G are as well as I am and in better humor

Sincerely Yours
Chas Wright

2773
2773

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass
Los Estados Unidos

Ingenio Esperanza Dec 10th 1862

My Dear Dr

Last night came yours of the 14th ult. Yes this is a letter as is a letter There's something in it. It satisfies It answers questions. It solves doubts. I am very thankful for such letters. And first I will go over it & make comments remarks &c. As to your kind offer to send me Yankee newspapers I am none the less obliged to you than if I accepted it. But as I long ago replied to a similar offer it will do me little or no good. Away among the vegas & haitos I can get neither that nor any other except accidentally or occasionally by meeting the phenomenon of a civilized "vegueo" or "hateo" & when I am "en casa" or at home with Blain or with Lescaille I get the Habana papers which give me regularly all the important news from all parts of the world. So the sending of a Yankee paper here would be trouble & expense with little or no benefit — I know it is Eaton's fault that I have not the books but until you explain why you "can not send from Boston to Havana" I must consider it equally your fault. I know that things are sent from Boston to Habana & why could not your parcel be thus sent equally well by giving one of your vile "greenbacks" Eaton did not get another portfolio made but we can get along very well I hope with the one we have. In my last from Palacios which you will get about these days I wrote about paper

I can do nothing with the plants in Eastern Cuba till I go there which I shall probably do early next year. This is the situation in which they are (a boy at Manville Sophie-coll. of 1860 in the savannas of the interior North of Cuba — perhaps a pack

at Monte Verde — a package on Cuba or at St. Sophie which I collected in La Guinea after I had set out to come here & which I sent back rather than bring it on here — a package in Trinidad sent thither fr. Santo Espiritu to lighten my load. This you see I can not ask Mr Descaille Brooks & co nor any one else to look after these things. They must wait till I look them up myself. I don't know of any thing which you could send me that I can change from worthless greenbacks into good "oro". I wish I did. I am collecting shells & every excursion yields me new species. I shall return with a very creditable collection for a botanist

Soon I'll tell you where I am & what I am doing. About a league fr. Pinar del Rio lies the Ingenio Esperanza (getting to be almost a hopeless case) growing up to weeds & the house going to ruin. It is a large estate belonging to the heirs of one Morell as they pronounce it here but as he came from Philadelphia it there was probably anglicized & known as Morrill. The heirs live elsewhere & are establishing another new sugar estate near Cienfuegos I believe. One Don Pantaleon Jones to whom I brought a letter recommendatory has charge of the estate & I was kindly received by him & installed in one half of the large & pretty comfortable house — a family of negroes occupying the other half. With these I board. Don P. lives in town coming here every day. He made many apologies for the discomfort which I should feel among the "gente pobre" But I pleaded in favor of staying here the "laguna" & the "monte" where I would be able to find plants & shells whereas in the pueblo I'd find nothing but good? living & that I didn't come to look after

They are preparing to commence the zafra or the gathering of the crop — getting wood repairing machinery re hooping the casks (for rum) &c. & about the 20th it is intended to commence grinding. The cane is scattering & small. large areas grown over with grass & weeds. But the lagunas have given me a rich collection. Here I find Lemna in fr. for the first time in my life as I believe. In one laguna is a "tembladera" or floating island of all sorts of aquatic plants giving me grasses Cyperaceæ. Two sps. of Hibiscus two Convolvs two Polygonaceæ one Begonia!! growing actually from the water — so different in habit from those of Eastern Cuba which are found only in crevices of rocks a little plant with the capsule of violaceæ & just like Lycopodium pinale on a very reduced scale. I collected just such a looking plant in springy places in Texas. This is probably the same plant. An orchid also grows among the grass & sends down its roots into the water. The island trembles all over as I scramble about on it the water below being 6-10° deep The gram. & cyp. are "cortaderas" & my legs are covered with scratches. N.B. Examining the fl. of the orchid above mentioned I find several instances of the pollinia stuck by the gland to the lobes of the 3-partite lip & standing at right angles to them or that the lip pressed down by the weight of an insect would almost necessarily bring the pollen-masses in contact with some part of it (the insect). This is a tall orchid with yellowish green small fl. & the largest most inflated anther sacks I have ever seen — Your account of the small demand for my plants is little in accordance with my expectations & with your exhortations to collect largely of certain families — ferns mosses &c. Perhaps they'll enable me by exchange to accumulate a little herbarium of my own for my own use when I am old man. My collections accumulated here show less in bulk than the first ones having very few ferns which composed a large part of the earlier ones but they abound in Monocotyledons & in small flowering plants of the savannas & pinals & less in woody ones which again make up more in bulk than number. At Blanco's at Jemmina I have some 8 packages which will count largely in the Cuban flora. I don't believe I can convert any Yankee product into cash At least I know now of nothing by which I can realize money here. If any opportunity of the kind do occur I will seize upon it to anticipate any future necessity for at present I have money enough — and

in fact I have no great anxiety on the subject for I have not as yet failed to borrow for any immediate want having had occasion three times I believe to ask a loan or only two (for once it was offered without solicitation) & then money was not withheld. I hope you will not forget my request to secure for me &c. I stay here long enough to see a copy of the new edition of Endlicher

The engineer here is a young man who spent four years in the U.S. & speaks English quite well. He is now here fitting up the engine for grinding & has invited me to go to his house about four leagues away I day after tomorrow we go. I hope then to find something new or interesting

If Messrs Tuckerman & Sullivant wont toe the mark I'll send the rest of the mosses & lichens to Europe whence we'll get reports of them some time or other — probably. I dont feel exactly good natured that C. did not send me a copy of his paper.

Would it be a good plan to put by a set of all the plants of which there is a plenty of specimens to present through the Spanish Minister in Washington to some national herbarium in Madrid such then be or to the Queen herself. In case I should stay here longer than I now intend or in the event of my returning here it might result to my benefit. And at any rate it is no more than a grateful return for the treasures I have drawn from the island and the abundant hospitality which has been shown me

Laguna Illas 13th. Came here yesterday & have spent today in a ridge of rocks near by collecting shells mostly. Tomorrow I go to the pinals which are close by They are hilly pinals & I dont expect to find much

Remember me to Mrs G.

Yours ever Charles Wright

10

San José Feby 21st 1863

My Dear X.

Gundlach has reached out a way by which you can send me money without Don Louis le Rever.n. (Louis le Rivereud) an apothecary of Habana has relations with the Brainerd House in New York. Gundlach says if you will deposite with that house any sum for me as Louis Rivereu will pay me the same amount in Habana Gundlach will do it. You know the way better than I do how much you can manage. Let me know there is no fatal rock to run Rivereu Gundlach business. Jamaville Horne will assist you more or less and all my friends will see that no one who is doing so much for the state. Hitchy Cobre will grant money to purchase with. My last shipments gave me about twenty new species of shells, which I believe enough to establish for the principal conchologists of the world. I pray for Gundlach to send abroad to his German friends after reserving some for our own naturalists & cabinets. What is among the species named a fresh one? There are very few left in the county since a second specimen will probably be worth perhaps fifty.

Nothing from you later than Dec 17th. No news of Pl. Wr. Cub. It is useless to complain & submit to my fate. I fear you are sick. Remember my account for the instrument. That long eyepiece by Merkel was to be sent about New Years.

I am collecting now & then some old new or mixed things together & will many already have in plenty—

probably. The other day I met with Belotia grew[illegible] Rich. for the first time in flower. Within two or three days I shall return to another station in the town- ship or the north side. To be gone a week or two- ably. Examining Richard's fig. of Belotia specimens I am obliged to take back what I wrote to Gris. about it & I wish you would tell him so. The wonder with me is when Rich. got his plant which must be as uncommonly rare as Bonaparte Gris which he does get is uncom- monly abundant N. B. Blanchard tells me it is common on the north side.

24th The Roanoke came the 20th & brought me no thing What can it mean?

I enclose bits of a plant which we two are very desirous of knowing something about. We guess it is not very remote fr. Celts. I found it first some 9- 10 months ago with full grown fruit & (no corolla) a few ovate 1½-3" leaves with a thin pale buff stem. As you may see it has a fibrous root. The stem is very slender & the full matchy. The stem, as it now is, is 10- 11- perhaps more—two pretty long stigmas moderately recurved—1 suspended ovule. The bruised plant has a very decided smell & taste of walnut (juglans) Collected yesterday the day before with very few fr. many of perfect ones & young fr. The leaves are young & small—the grown are much larger

Pray don't fail to answer this letter by the very first mail. Answer my questions the first thing. Tell me about the best paper you can (duty call) to allow me to question about nursery &c. Then if you have time & inclina- tion to write about the bower & other matters go ahead

Kind regards to Mrs G—— Yours ever

Chas Wright

Roanoke

San José Ap. 10th 1863

Dear Dr

I wrote you about ten days ago Since then I have arranged my shells dried my plants read the books &c.... & the papers attended to my horses &c. Day before yesterday I went a considerable distance up the river — now dry in most parts. I got a new Calpania — all the parts of the fl. 5-many except the pistil which is 2-carpellary — also specimens of a Lythraceous bush not in Gris. nor Rich. — perhaps Antherythium. fl. purple.

I have been a little ailing too. When I went to Habana about a year ago I was troubled with a kind of diarrhoea or looseness of the bowels (not enough to cause anxiety about my health but just enough to incommode me very much especially in a city. And now after every excursion on returning here the same complaint comes on me — makes me turn out o'nights — and — is unpleasant generally. What causes it — change of diet or water — I know not. This time it has clung to me longer than usual & it excites me a little My remedy for stomach complaints generally is fasting. Two day before yesterday I went to the woods early & did not return till — say 4 P.M. — then going without my breakfast — & since then I feel better. I mean to take the same medicine tomorrow

I am all alone. Don José & Madame Sanvalle went some days ago to visit a brother. He was to return yesterday. Sanvalle (Fr.) went some time ago to Trinidad — before my return

I supposed the 2nd part of Pl. Wr. would include some of the later coll. — such as those fr. Banana &c. but I see it does not. The numbers are about the same running of course a little higher to embrace Endogens. At first I felt a little growly & Pinkney Gris. had shown over some of my names but upon reflection I guess that with those earlier coll. & in Mondpet. I sent in few or no names. Well the Suppl. will form the body of the work if the plants come safely to Kew. For example there are here four or five species of Erythraea not including E. corallodendron. There will be two sp. of Pinguicula & more than half a dozen of Utricularia — 3 or 4 sp. of Elaeodendron &c &c. The other day I saw good specimens of Bertha with well grown — perhaps not quite ripe fruit which the authors of the new Gen. Pl. seem not to have had. I remember well when I first found Brocken ovules I sought it in Liliacea & not finding it knew not where else to look — sent you a bit & you gave me the name. Now here it is in the new work referred to this order.

16th Went to the woods again today — took another dose & fasting — am getting better. Got Canella in fr. — a newish looking Apocyn. with very small fl. but emitting a great perfume (fl. young — bud nicely) — a Nyctagin a bush with perfect fl. — have got it before somewhere fide mem. — not in Rich nor Gris. — a Sicera different from the two in Gris & one in Pl. Wr. It is dreadful hard work now climbing the the hills the leaves are so slippery & the hills so steep.

15th Today came the first rain of the season (at this place) a succession of hard showers & Don José came soon after having taken the full benefit of it.

or my letter of Feby 30-31. I sent bits of an Odontocoeos plant to you & Dr Torrey asking your opinion. No answers yet. Strange that so much time is needed to get an answer. Eaton too asks bits of ferns. But it's of no use — the answers come so late that they do me no good. I have since examined the ovule seed (immature) & embryo. This is exactly that of Calla as given by Gris.

I have been amusing myself in my solitude by vade-finding — jotting down "errata" in the new "Gen. Pl." & send you the result. You can send it to the authors if you think proper. & presume they'll take it kindly as it's kindly intended

Your note on Calceolaria petiolaris wont make another synonym for you have written or suffered to be printed the name in both places exactly (literatim) alike

Mr. Saunders writes me fr. Habana that the bill of lading sent him by Mr. Eaton says "freight & expense payable in Habana" How could E. make such a blunder. He, Saunders, wants a set of my plants "as numbered & classified by Mr. Grisebach" & asks what the set will cost. I presume the sets if any remain are very imperfect. Write me about it

I send you a bit of Semianthus adenandrum — Wr. You see I know what it is. Dont make another Anisophora of it. The filaments appear somewhat notable perhaps they are not so "Filamenta usque ad sinum corollae lata cum dente glanduloso tubo adpressa dein inflexa filiformia. Gris. says "Fil. basi "dente" 2 (the tooth) at least in the bud, but at the bend & is visible in the sinus of the corolla lip. The filament below is broad & glandular, free or at least separate from the cor. without laceration. From the envelopes, they'll enlighten you

16 Today we have N. Y. papers to the 9th inst. 'Tis wonderful strange that I get no acknowledgement of my letter of last 9th Feby. You'll force me to abandon my task & come home — for want of funds perhaps. — Raining again this afternoon

Yours truly Chas Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

STEAM 10

Habana Sep. 30th 1863

My Dear Dr

I have come on to the city with all my collection made in the vueltabajo in order to ship them to New York. I wait the arrival of Lundlach who will bring a package from Germania. On the receipt of them you will of course distribute them as soon as possible not waiting for the two or three little parcels scattered about in the vueltarriba & which we may never get at all. They contain I am convinced very few species which we have not already in the former remittances or in the package I now send There is another motive for their speedy distribution besides getting my pay. There is now here a French botanist. I know nothing of his plans but of course they will go to France & be worked up without delay (his plants) probably. I listened too to a tale of another Frenchman who was digging up all sorts of roots & climbing all sorts of trees in the Vueltabajo where I have been working. I say "tale" for I suspect it was all a lie The fellow who told me was a Frenchman speaking English pretty well traveling on foot with nothing but the clothing he had on his back —& that very dirty— & not a cent in his pocket. I think I met him once before when he told me he came from New Orleans. He had just passed a house where he was a shipwrecked Haitian begging means for the relief of his family. He has traveled a good deal & is no fool except perhaps in the scripture (biblical) sense

I send as before to Westermann & Co

And now if I growl a little who can blame me The last of Feby. I wrote you how money could be sent me. Two months gone by & not a word on the subject I have about $20 left. I dont know what I shall have to pay on these things. If I pay freight here & then take a receipt on which is written "freight payable in New York" — call me a fool. That's for Capon!!

I have in some former letter written you that the 2nd pt. of Pl. Wr. Cub. will be greater than the first. For instance take a few of the first families or genera Then will be one Ranunculus. Calomba. Brasenea Nuphar. Nelumbium Nymphaea (2 sp) Tytopin (2 sp.) Anona (1 sp.) Limania (2 sp. n.) some Lasseanus several Crotons & Phyllanthi &c &c. Then then will be the Combretaceae (passed by) Bromeliaceae (a). There will be 8-10 sp Utricularia Pinguicula (2 sp.) &c. Of course I can recall half of those I know & of those I dont know — Gram. Cyperac &c. I say nothing. Not many ferns nor mosses. Lichens perhaps will make a better show Day before yesterday all was dust! dust!! dust!!! The first rain fell yesterday & this morning it is mud! mud!! mud!!! — and hot as an oven.

The plants are put up in too large bundles like "tercios" of tobacco enveloped in Yaguas = sheaths of palm leaves The bundle from Fermina is a small one

May 4th. A steamer came in & left yesterday but I did not know it in time. It is said another is expected today. Gundlach wrote me that he had sent my things left at Fermina to the city but I dont know when they are & dont know when he will come

Since writing the first part of my letter while studying to account for & to excuse your neglect of me I have thought perhaps you did not get my letter of last of Feby. If you did & neglected to avail yourself of the mode of sending money which I pointed out I think you are much to blame. I will state it again.

Don Luis le Riverend an apothecary of this city has transactions with the Brandreth House in N.Y. & has to remit thither gold by express paying a considerable percentage. Gundlach wrote me that any sum deposited at the Brandreth House in my name will be refunded to me here in gold by Don Luis. So I asked you to send $100. by this means if you could

I hope Gundlach will either come today or will write me something definite

On the receipt of the plants you wont fail to write by the first mail I hope & oblige

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Concordia
May 25th 1863

My Dear Dr

I came here ten days since — an old capital — now mainly devoted to the culture of Jatropha manihot for the manufacture of starch. A good deal of coffee is still gathered. No great place for botany. I went to the coast — 3 l. — on foot — the other day. Got a few plants. My pack-horse is dead & all my plans upset. I can do little with one horse & have no means to buy another even if I had the inclination. It's not likely I'll find another that will suit me exactly like the one I've lost. If I were to consult my pecuniary interest I'd sell out right off & come home. I have too a sort of longing to see my friends especially my brother & sister

Still I am rather reluctant to leave my work yet so imperfectly done. I shall consult with my friend Lyndlack especially for a better man dont live on the "top o' ground". He reminds me as to moral character conscientiousness of "Path finder" (Cooper)

During a visit home (if I make it) I could consult better with the Zoologists & ascertain whether returning as a general collector. I could make both ends meet or even gain a little — for hence forward I cant hope to gain any thing from plants alone if I have to buy another horse especially — I haven't been out much here because of a shocking cold which I brought with me from Habana. If you want to know something of this place look in Miss Fredenka Bremer — Today we have a kind of norther. It began during the night with rain & distant thunder in various directions. It is a lowery uncomfortable day

I shall return in a few days to San José or rather Retiro whither friend Blain has now removed — a league — his own place — San José belongs to Sauvalle

Lyndlack will make an excursion to the vueltabajo this summer. I meant to go with him Will see. I hope he'll come soon & then will know what course I shall eventually take

Yours truly

Charles Wright

P.S. Dont send me any money till you hear fr. me again C. W.

Dr. Asa Gray

Retire June 15th 1863

Dear S.

Yesterday came yours of the 28th
ult. [illegible] enclosure.
If you will believe Gundlach
& [illegible] me all stark natural
[illegible] — I cannot help it. But
that [illegible]
[illegible] Gundlach
[illegible] I know [illegible] the end.
[illegible] Hope in good condition
I did not write to Westermann
thinking it [illegible] as the present
[illegible] not such a business as they
had before done for us; they will
know exactly what to do
But your whole heart is with them.
Yes, my heart is with them and
it is equally with the north.
If they want [illegible] Texas [illegible]
you commenced fighting for?
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

I am sorry that you are hard
up should spare you any. I
wonder you are not absolutely
obliged to work so hard to earn
your living.

Sawtelle does not care much
about any thing but trees & shrubs
[illegible] I generally collect enough
to give me a specimen as I go
to Mr Mappin's. So it is not worth
while to send a set for him.

"The effie (of N. Zeal.) are all
given — or to be given away by Gov.
Gov Wright." Am not I of sufficient
importance in the firm of Wright &
Co to be entitled to a few effies?

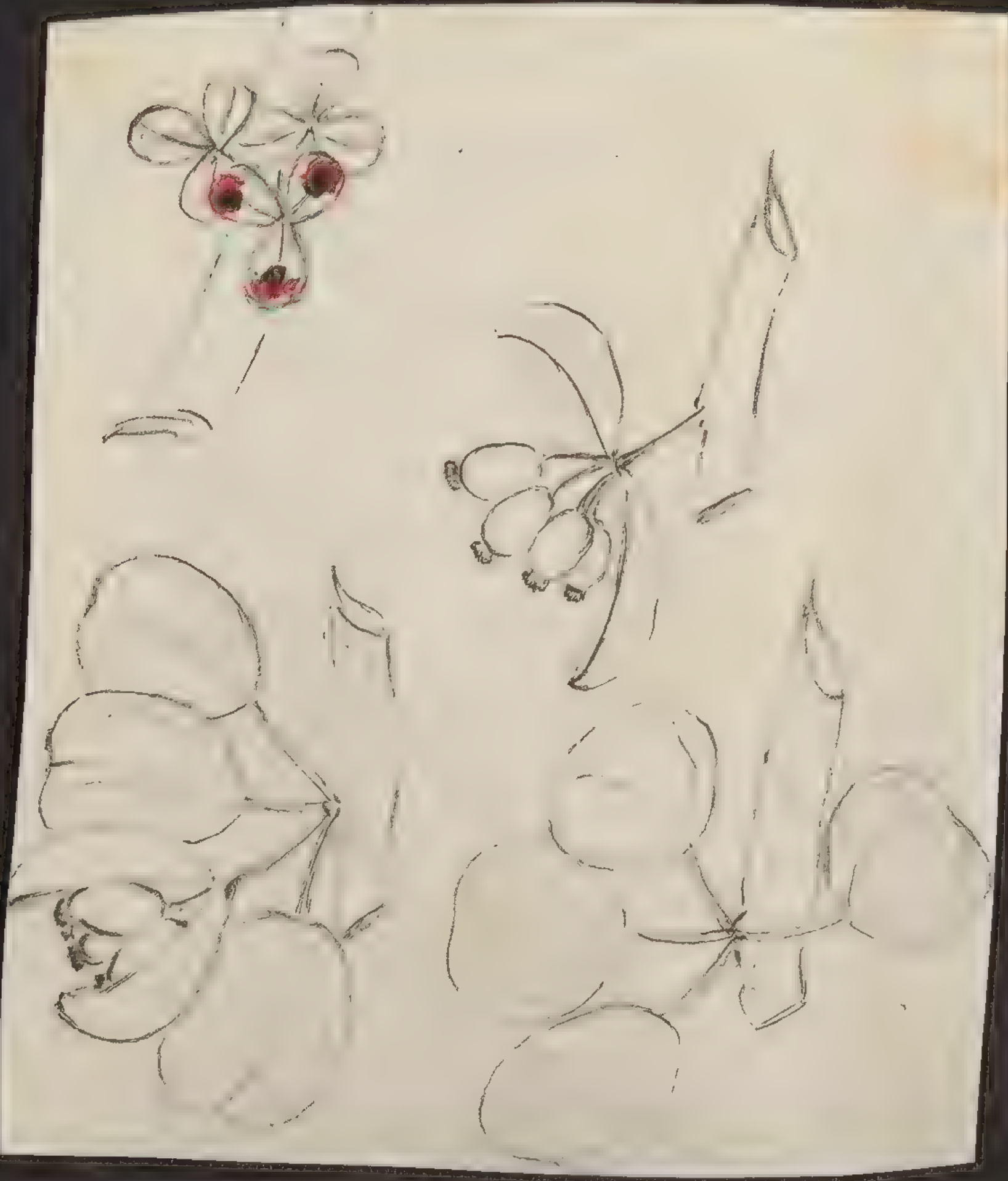
You had better send Priest to buy
them. If you can't come home for a
few days Priest must to me here as
the books will only have to be sent
back again — a considerable expense

time & trouble with risk of loss &
[illegible]

How I do wonder at Lawson
denying "bad grammar"
"with" (Greek) neuter gender!
However "adv[illegible]" is
good

Kind regards to Mrs G. — hope she
is better

Yours truly
Charles Wright



Retire July 15th /63

My Dear Dr via Key West

News comes this morning of the surrender of Vicksburg & some scraps of information about a great battle in Maryland?

My horse-trade is at last effected & tomorrow or next day I propose to set out on another excursion to the north coast.

Inclosed is a sketch of the ♂ of a tree reputed to be very poisonous. The ♂ is similar in outward appearance (but smaller) Leaf 4-6 oblong lanceolate. and a i.c. the inflorescence is at first enclosed in a ~~sac~~ spherical white — well balloon — I dont know how better to describe it. This at the time of anthesis splits across the top & discloses the stam. fl. much like those of Pseudolmedia as well as I remember for I have no ♂ fl. at present. The ♂ involucre commonly has 4 fl. The stigma is peltate & irregularly lobed or coarsely dentate. We suppose it is Euphorbiaceous. From the apex of the seed hangs a red lobed fleshy arillus (and oily fr. D. José) The fr. is 3-celled. You may know it. For my own sake & that of Don José please give us your opinion. I have sent you specimens of shoots on plenty

I poisoned myself with a sp. of Sapium (sp. n.) While holding on with one hand up a small tree I broke branches with the other & put them sideways in my mouth in order not to lose any (it was scarce) but I got some of the juice in my mouth causing a burning sensation & at length excoriation at the angles outside. Worse: I got some of it in my right eye & brought it up. The eye from symp. brought itself up worse than the other. But I am over it now.

16th. This morning we have a fuller account of the battle of Gettysburgh & a rumour [illegible] N. Orleans is retaken by

Magruder and a doubtful report that N. Orleans has been retaken by Magruder.

I find here again my cicca arborea. It is a large tree—the bark cracks transversely & then peels off up & down like our shagbark. Don Jose in his botanical book or record—Memoranda—has opposite this plant "Dioicia Enneandria" This record is the accumulation of several years & the entry referring to Cicca was made before he knew me—perhaps several years ago. He don't know C. antillana. Yours truly

Chas Wright.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Toscanini July 27th 1863

My Dear Dr.

Don José has made & repeated to me a statement which I received with some incredulity namely that the plants found here in the low lands of the coast are again met with on the summit of the mountains to the south. I find some confirmation of his remarks. For example In the low saline woods near the seaside occurs in abundance Savia erythroxyloides which I remember to have seen elsewhere only on rocky ledges at the top of the mountains. The same may be said of a sp. of Dyckia? which I have sent as D. macrocalyx & I am not mistaken. I put it with a ? for though I have found it with fr. of all sizes and at all seasons I have not yet seen a fl. — One or two sp. of Erythroxylum also grow in the saline woods with great luxuriance. I find two sp. of Mygindu. A ~~Sapium~~ with small leaves somewhat like Myrica but short. Yesterday I found the ♂ of a Euphorbia. a great bush armed with compound spines — The fl. are those of ~~Phyllanthus~~ + I thought the whole plant looks quite unlike that genus? I got a dose of Manchineel in my eyes & today they are a little bunged up. I have now had a touch in the same style of Hura Sapium & Hippomane & have no desire to repeat the operation. They ain't good eyemedicines. On Hippomane I find a sp. of Arcanthobium — A. Mancinella. Wr. A curious looking bush is met with here — all the branches are drooping thus . It has exactly the leaves of Amyris linearis but it is Celastraceous. I did not bring with me the new Gen. Pl. so can not study it out from the fresh fl. (seeds ecarunculate)

+ Not Phyllanthus — dioecious with brief rudimentary style in ♂ 5-androus. 5-glandular 5 sepalous, a petalous sep. imbricate

31. A word more on the subject with which I began. You have doubtless found among the plants a rutaceous bush without fl. or fr. collected in few spec. for its singular leaves — a pair of obovate-roundish leaflets at the end of a broad foliaceous midrib or petiole. Those specimens were found on the very topmost point of Monte Libano. I have not met with it since, till now — and on the very edge of the mangrove swamp. Now I have plenty of fr. & I think it is a Fagara which I shall take the liberty of naming F. obversa. I find also other evidences of the reasonableness of friend Blain's assertions. Yesterday I got another dose in the eye from a Sapium. I suffered very much for half the night. This morning my eyes feel very big & clumsy. The other day I found a nice little Comp. of which I shall send you a bit just to keep you in heart with promise of plenty more. It is quite distinct from anything in Lyon's.

Aug 1st. A few days ago I found a large bush with ♂ fl. Cal. 5-dep. imbricate — no trace of cor. nor stam. Ovary with 4 erect ovules. Today I find the ♂ fl. exactly those of Diphotis — cor. double row of appendages stam. — Anth. extrorse — ovary (apparently) perfect — every thing. Terribly spiny thing with little obovate roundish coriaceous leaves. Hard to make decent specimens of it. Do you know any thing like it?. Aug. 6: I judge the ♂ fl. mentioned above were ovaries from which the fl. had fallen though they looked like buds & the plant must be Diphotis horrida. I have got my paper & now can work on a larger scale. Yesterday I found sp. of a palm new to my coll. & found some other novelties

Sauvalle will sail for Europe about the 20th inst visiting N. York & perhaps some other cities of the North. I shall offer him introductory letters for Dr. Torrey & yourself

Aug 12th. Just got yours of 7th ult. Why did you direct it to Sauvalle in Habana? Well if I must I must do battle for Reverend & it is upon that unhardhead. A better man than Gundlach is not to be met with & he understands Spanish. When therefore it came to his knowledge that Reverend did give in Habana gold for a nominally equivalent amount disposed in N.Y. he solicited for me the same favor. I dont know the motives of R. but I can suppose that being (as he is) very rich & liberal-minded (a characteristic more observable here than in Yankeedom) he chose to exercise his generosity in this way. He may have been disposed to give a poor scientific rambler a lift indirectly under cover of pretext of a business transaction. My directions were plain & if by following them I had suffered loss this loss would have been mine & not yours. Suppose you had put in the Brandreth House $100.00 in green backs. I wont at any rate have got for them in Habana $60.00 — 70.00 more or less. I wont have preferred to lose a few dollars to remanning six months without money. Allow me to say that in this matter you have shown an excess of distrust in my judgment in that of Gundlach and a superfluity of caution generally. Whatever far as I am concerned I feel sensibly

"I did not know — that the Zoological packages were directed to me" — They were not unless they were so on the bill of lading. There was They were distinctly marked Smithsonian Institution

a pound ticket from the Smith. Just spoiled to cash unless it was detached during the passage & I Westermann didn't see it is'nt my fault. No. I am wrong in that but they were plainly addressed to Smith. Washington by me

I didn't expect you would work yourself into a fever or into a passion to gratify Rockd James Cay. He asked me if I could give him a copy of P.I. Nr. Cub. I wishing to gratify him & to respect as much as in me lies the Pres of Cuba put the same question to you. I supposed it would not be very difficult to send such a package to Matanzas You have heretofore sent through Sanvalle & Dr. Morales being the only scientific cultivators of our science known to me. The latter studies pretty thoroughly & makes copious notes though I am not aware that he publishes anything He paid a good deal of attention to the subject in the Manillas whence he was banished for his liberalism He is moreover an abolitionist of the first water — no mean recommendation in your eyes I suppose — nor in mine neither His specimens are like Parry's & unlike them — they are scrappy & not nice.

Your letter came due a week ago but was mislaid along with it came one from Eaton with a certificate for $100.00 deposited with Simons, Sherman & Co. So now by sending it endorsed to Habana I shall have money

When Gundlach comes I shall learn from him how I can write to Germany & I will then be able to communicate direct with Grisebach

I have been here nearly four weeks & as I wrote to Sanwalk I have been successful beyond my most sanguine expectations

The printed tickets of which I wrote above were received by me for Baird after the arrival of the Zoological Coll, but these were well directed by me "Smithsonian Institution Washington City" & as I remember well you did on some occasion give me the credit of writing a good & plain direction. At any rate I did my best & thought it unnecessary to write to Westermann as he had before done the same business for us not imagining that he would send you packages marked as above described.

I have written you a tolerably long letter this time so wont bother you with anything more than to subscribe myself as ever

Yours truly

Chas. Wright

P.S. Regards to Mrs G. & hope your vacation & excursion in N.Y will recruit you both

C.W.

I saw some time ago of the taking or surrender of Port Hudson. Lately I saw a detailed account of the N.Y. riots. God grant a speedy end to the war. If afterward the people of the south can be persuaded to love you (Restoration of the Union) no one will more sincerely rejoice than I.

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.
Los Estados Unidos

Retiro Sept 5th 1863

My Dear Dr.

In my last I took up the cudgel in defence of myself & Gundlach - I haven't laid it down & don't mean to till you cry "nuf" & do my friend justice with respect to his age & is not chargeable with adolescence He has been more than twenty years on the island with but rare opportunities of speaking his native tongue (& he knows but two) consequently he has become if not a Spanish scholar at least familiar with the everyday language of the people. He has frequent occasion to transact business with Germany England & the United States - so is not quite ignorant of the ordinary routine of commercial transactions

"You give me Gundlach's excellent contrivance &c" There is a sneering tone (if it is allowable to say so of written language) in these words anything but agreeable. Do you imagine Gundlach to be such an ass as to mistake a quack doctors shop for an exchange banker's He would be, methinks, recommending me to go there on exchange business if he did not see that I was to gain something considerable by it. But as you understand the matter I was to gain nothing or the very least possible percentage.

"What he (L. R) meant &c" I guess that Gundlach knew quite as well as you what Le. Reverend meant seeing that he understands Spanish & you do not and seeing that he was present & you a thousand miles off.

Moreover I saw Le. Reverend myself. Our interview was very short as he seemed to be busy. Furthermore he might very easily have misunderstood me or I him

I told him what Lyndlack had written to me and asked him if I could still avail myself of the chance mentioned by him (several months having elapsed from the date of that letter) He said no & of course the subject was dropped He did not deny that such an arrangement as G. mentioned had existed Now just open your head wide enough to admit the supposition that a Cuban is capable of doing a liberal or generous act while apparently engaged in a business transaction & the whole matter as it appears to me is divested of all difficulty. I hope this is the last time I shall have to recur to this subject

I returned here about a week ago & have pretty much dried up every thing I had a dry time crossing the mountains but it set in to rain the day of my arrival & has rained more or less—and a plenty of it—every day since till yesterday. To-day it is thundering about but the prospect is that the day may pass without rain. I wrote you from Jobabo something of my collection there. But there is one curious place of which I made no special mention About fifteen miles to the westward of this place the pine hills extend quite across: that is from the plains on this side almost to the sea-shore on that. Where the last of the pine ridges—a very high one Capalbana—drops down to the level or coast land there is a curious locality of plants The place is called San Marcos. The land is sterile full of little ferruginous pebbles & when not covered with pines & grass is sprinkled over with thickets of bushes almost inextricably entangled. The bushes have very short internodes with short rigid divaricate branches & commonly small coriaceous leaves. There is a comp. leafless like an Ephedra. There is the smallest leaved Euphorbium you ever saw. There is the smallest Polygala & the smallest Evolvulus I know There are three Cocculobas one not remarkable—the two others with little coriaceous leaves. There are two or three Rubiac. with leaves of the same stamp—a Beurreria a Sapotac. & a Verbenac. a Celastrac? a Maytenus & a Tricera hardly distinguishable by their form or leaves, a Garcinia 3-74 a Malpighia with diciform but very small leaves. On contra there is a Senecio & a Hargasiesia that look as if they might grow in any other company. Almost all of these have also very small fl. so that I had to use my lens often to distinguish them & to select branches with fl. There is also a Xanthoxylum (Fagara) with leaves of this form recalling the one I found on the top of Monte Libano. Belairia spinosa I did not find tho' friend Blain says there is "muchissimo" in the region where I was botanizing. He has however one sad failing Some call it "exentia" I call it "ponderation" When speaking of size it is "grandissimo" of number or quantity it is "muchissimo" of distance it is "cerquito" or "lejissimo" &c. So of the many trees of Belairia on the northern coast I could not find one not even a little bush Neither have I found Rickardsia Steigmatosperma nor Polygala pedunculata

I hope you won't forget what I wrote in my last that the Zoological collections were not directed to you. let Westermann say what he may

"I suppose you will come home this autumn"

Softly Doctor Yaims safe yet Burnside might get hold of me. Here I am a freeman Then I

I dont know what might be done with me. Besides I think it will be better to go north in the spring. It is now too late in the season & I want to traverse the island again by another route. My last excursion encourages me to hope that I may get a clean 4 or 5 many nice things.

In a late letter Grindlach writes me to this effect 1st If a set of the plants collected in the island by me can be obtained 2nd What is the price of the whole or of each part or of each 100 specimens. He is desirous to procure a collection as complete as possible 3d Whether they will come named or at least with numbers that can afterwards be changed for names 4th If these conditions are ~~realizable~~ realizable I can have the money in advance. I have written to him that of course I can not accept the last condition but I told him I would write to you to know how complete a set or how large a set could be made and I dont know whence comes the offer.

I have not yet received the money for the draft but it will come in good time. Besides Jaenneret the man who in Cuba lent me two ondas ($34.) when I set out thence for Habana has now casually on deposit with Le Riverend $76 & writes to Grindl. that I should use it if I wish & repaid it when I arrive in Cuba. I have accepted the offer. So I shall not want money. You see my Cuban friends are generous. perhaps Le Riverend was more so than you give him credit for

7th. We have N. Y. papers to the 29th ult. They contain sad accounts of excesses in the west & elsewhere threats of military executions & of reprisals — the legitimate fruits of military despotism. The formidable array of ~~four~~ armed troops to effect the draft in N. York rather weakens an assertion in one of your letters that "there was but one voice in all the north on the

question of prosecuting the war." Well! Sumter is gone, I suppose: probably Charleston before now. I hope however Butler the brute wont be sent there as the papers state to be the intention of the Government. I am ashamed of the vandalism of the federal troops — the wanton destruction of private property in Fredericksburg the burning of St Marys? Jacksonville? & other villages the destruction of Jackson with its unequaled capitol & the late barbaric act of destroying Jeff. Davis' library — a greater loss to literature than to its owner. The comportment of the confederate forces in Mar. & Penn. ought to make you blush.

9th You have not told me what is to be done with the eastern Cuban things get unpublished. It was in my view an injudicious thing to put that "Cuba oriental" in the heading & if I were you in futim I would drop it. There is no division of the Island either logically geographically or botanically into eastern & western & I would ask Gris. to include everything now in his hands indicating only the particular localities & I can afterwards add an index of them pointing out the Gris direction of each.

Sauvalle writes that he goes today for N. York & tells me Prem Blair is summoned to Habana. If he calls Don José won't see him of course. The letter has been delayed. I shall be alone some days.

Kind regards to Mrs. G. I hope you have both recruited during your visit to N. York.

Sincerely yours

Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Retiro Sept 20th 1863

a long passage Postmark Cambridge Jul. 22. N.Y. Aug 8 Habana Aug 17 – 11 days on the passage!!!

My Dear Dr.

Last night came yours of July 22nd. From Habana it was sent to Jaruco where it arrived just after I had left & where it has remained ever since. For more than a year my address has been "Sr Dn José Blain. Stia Cruz de los Pinos" Dont know why you changed it the last two letters. The day after my return here it began to rain (before it had been dry) & has rained & poured nearly every day since. I have been gleaning up some things around here My horse is still unfit for service – that is, my newly purchased horse, so I cant go on any excursions which wont need a pack animal.

You didnt tell me the number of sp. you made in the last remittance. It would be gratifying to know about how many sp. I have collected.

Dn José has in cultivation Bertholletia. He has also some nuts the seed of which were sent him under the name of "California nut" On the young branches of both there is a persistent line on two sides running from leafbase to leafbase. In Bertholletia it is clearly the narrow wing of the petiole decurrent on the stem. In the California nut it is not so clear the articulation of the leaf with the stem being very distinct while in Bertholletia it is much less so. Don José is very desirous to know what the tree is & begs me to ask you to guess what it is if you can do no better. The leaves are lanceolate acuminate finely serrulate 3 inches long blunt at base on a petiole less than 1/4 inch. We have here a sp. of Anaxdmia now out of fl. so I cant determine the sp. It is a famous poison for killing wild dogs & is known all over the country as Curumaguey. The leaf is oblanceolate rather bluntly acuminate 2-3 in long on a petiole nearly an inch At the base of the leaf are 2-4 little black glands & in the axils

believing they are related

a number of similar ones. I would like you to compare my description with your specimens & give me your opinion. But I shall be angry if you dont find time to answer all these questions

26th After writing the above I went on an excursion of three days into the mountains. I would have been glad of Mr. Eaton's company (not that I wish him harm) just to see if he wouldn't have had an attack of the greens. Up hill & down mud! mud! mud! slip, slide, horses & men, yards at a time. Dirty & wet, & but few novelties found. But I must glean up & I did glean some things — so I dont regret the discomforts I brought back in abundance specimens of a new Shoestia (not Diplecalyx Rich.) which I had found sparingly before — a Daphnopsis (3 specimens 2 ft. 10 ft.) probably new to my coll. (not in Lyn.) So if I find no more you must be content with the "back." While Lyn. has the couple I was in a very humid region reminding me more of Yatens than any place I have been in on this end of the island. I found also a single specimen of an oxypetalum different I think from the one which is somewhat common. Also a Mikania found only in the shady damp mountains with pedately parted leaves

"But if so, I will stand the 45 50/100 dollars I paid for the gold." Now disabuse yourself of the idea if you think that is what I have been writing & grumbling about. I have been trying to defend myself & Gundlach from the imputation of being simpletons. And if the result is an interview with Le Riverend and an explanation of the matter were to throw this loss on you be sure I shall not seek them. In all this discussion I have hardly once thought of the loss by exchange. If you are quite willing to bear a part of it I will not object

As soon as you get returns from Lyn please have a copy of the names made out & send it to me. It can hardly fail to be of use to me in cases of doubt whether I have already collected such or such a plant

28th Today we get the Presidents late Proclamation. It was hardly necessary for the Habeas-corpus act has been pretty much a dead letter for a year or two past. What can it mean? Some kick at Democracy? Land of the free!!! Here I am free if I am in a military dis-potism & here I mean to stay till times become better at home.

I have written to Mr. Eaton in self-defence. Perhaps he may get in a good humor. I hope so for his own sake as well as for mine. I should be sorry to know that he cherishes resentment against me

I send a leaf of Mesdemia & of the California. Give me if you can the names Obliged

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Los Remates Dec 20th 1863

My Dear Dr

If you thought I had forgotten you would not be strange. I haven't answered yours of Sept 18th – the last I have from you – received Oct 4 But you wont miss a little lacuna in my correspondence. When your letter came I hadn't matter for a reply & ever since I have been so situated that it was inconvenient to write besides that I had nothing of importance to write about

As the subjects of that letter are rather stale – got cold – I'll not allude to them but tell you briefly what I've been doing the last two or three months. The latter part of Oct. I crossed the mountains to the north coast to Escano stayed there till Nov 15 – collecting still more novelties Went to Laguna (vega) – climbed Guajabon twice always finding something that appeared new made an excursion to Cajalbana (pine ridge crossing the island) got a brand new almost arborescent Euphorbia followed down the north side near the coast through La Palma, crossed Rios, Bajas, Mantua, every where collecting now & then something nice & new. Stopped some days ... that pondy pine region when I was last year nearly at the same date. The lagunas as well as the pine flats gave me a goodly number of new things as well as additional & sometimes better specimens than I found last year. I regret exceedingly that I cannot give this district a thorough summer examination From Asiento Viejo (the laguna) I followed the same route to the Jauka the terminus of my travels last year. I wanted to go to the cape but finding no guide I was content to go to a point on the south coast four leagues "afoot" – horribly rocky path – near cape Corrientes. At the Jauka picked up some poor specimens of a Scadophyllum

the leaves of which are full of pellucid lines & dots exactly after the style of Cassia. And I may remark that a part of the specimens of this excursion will be very poor & scrubby — winter plants — passé. — the best I could well do. There will generally be enough to describe by & for yourself besides. I meet too so many things that I can not determine by what books I have (Grisb). Rubiaceæ Myrtaceæ, Melastomaceæ &c for example & then on these long excursions I hesitate long before collecting a bulky plant which has a familiar look & commonly or often soothe my conscience with one or two or a few specimens. For example — here are four or five Psychotria Sect: Mapouria, not one of which I can determine to my own satisfaction. and I meet with not one which I can determine. There are some common Labiatæ (weeds) Salvia Hyptis &c that I cant make out. And the same may be said of many other families or genera. This place is just at the Los Rabanales
western end of the pine region and where the peninsular swamp & wood begin. Nearly all this peninsula is only passable on foot being one continuous Seboncal — region where the rough limestone (coralline) comes to the surface in ragged sharp projections (diente de perro = dog's-tooth) We've had a norther for several days & I am now almost shivering with cold — perhaps you are quite. Tomorrow — probably — I shall set out for Asiento Fieji where I left some dry plants & which I want to give another thorough examination. I go then to "la Ignifa" near the southern coast — pine woods all the way — Thence I propose to return to Guane & from there through the hill country a part of which I traversed last year at the beginning of this. It is the only route which is likely to yield me much. I am anxious to get back to Retiro to know what is going on at home. It is somewhat more than a month since I have seen a paper containing any news. I met a gentleman who told me that Grant had gained a victory over Bragg. Arrived at Retiro I think of drying up every thing as soon as possible take them to Habana, despatch them to N. York & then continue on to Cuba. In the spring or summer I mean to come home war or no war. You had better not write me any more unless you do so immediately on the receipt of this & have something of interest to communicate. I am well

Regards to Mrs G.

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

STEAMSHIP
10
CENTS

Ritiri Jan 15th 1864

My Dear Dr.

Three days ago I returned from my excursion of eighty-four miles your letter of Dec 1 with enclosure from Engelmann & Tuckerman & yesterday came that of 2nd inst with the list of names of plants. Brieback's note & the draft on Hamburgh for £.20 which I shall not want immediately as in this excursion I was unable to spend anything hardly. Thanks to the hospitality of the people. I wrote you about the 20th ult. Fr. Gs Remains. Hope you have the letter by this time. A day or two later I went to Zaligrifa - new ground & here I got another dreadful poisoning by Rhanculla. Christmas morning early I went with my kind host on an excursion & collecting some bushes with a figgy hook I broke some branches this sort of fr. & put them in my portfolio - The leaves were finely dentic ulate. Looking about more carefully I the mother tree. I went on to a laguna & as I had not washed that morning proceeded to wash my hands & face. But the moment I put the water to my eyes I felt the poison I told my friend what had occurred & begged to return to the house. Soon my eyes began to take fire & before we got there I could hardly see. The light was painful I went to bed put wet cotton on my eyes but found no relief. The pain subsided by night but my eyes were very sore & gave me pain on opening & shutting them. The day following I could hardly see objects as men in bulk & distinguish nothing clearly. The 27th I was better but with vision very much confused. At the first glance I could recognise the letters of a word but in a moment they became mixed & confused. With time I grew better but for a number of days my sight was very much impaired & even now I hardly dare say

that I see as clearly as I did before. In that region of pine woods & lagunas I found quite a number of nice things. What do you think of a Cuban Kalmia? I think I have one a little bush a few inches high I shall examine soon. The last days of Dec. & the first few of this month I passed Guane & after traversing some new ground returned home thro' the same mountain that I examined nearly at the same season last year. Of course I did not collect much. But I am continually meeting new plants not in flower & hearing thro' friend Blain & others of novelties in ponts which I have not yet visited. Many laggard & defective specimens-out of season

In my last of I remember well I wrote nothing of the war or public matters willing to drop our little sparring. You dont seem so inclined. So I shall make some quotations & criticisms. "Peace Democracy — is dead." Perhaps so-perhaps only set back. We know what killed it-allowing Republican soldiers to go home to vote while the Democrats were retained to keep their posts or be killed off-either case worked just the wire-pullers." The reelection of Lincoln by acclamation seems probable." Doubtless after the manner of the Roman Emperors during the "Decline & Fall" (Vide Gibbon) not in the old constitutional ways which by the way seem to be falling pretty much into disuse. Since the palpable unequivocal sunction of secessionism by the erection of western Virginia into a new state & its admittance as such I am not surprised to see the Government adopt the most extravagant measures.

"You can come home in the Spring, or even now" Can I? How gracious. I am of the same opinion. But the conditions?-"take the Presidents oath of allegiance" I didn't know the President had an oath of allegiance. As a good man which I profess to be I am quite ready to swear obedience to the constitution & laws of my country or any other where I may be-but to "swear to the proclamation"! Never!! It is neither constitution nor law-I know but little of it in my present state of mind I shall not swear to it tho' it may be a very harmless affair.-"and be a good and peacable citizen(subject) of A. Lincolns Dominion" A. Lincolns Dominion! A. Lincolns dominion!! A. Lincolns dominion!!! Pray where does that dominion lie "en este mundo de Dios"? I didn't suppose you would write so unthoughtedly. Let us see what you say Sept. 18th. "U.S. America belongs to loyal Americans" This suits me better much better. Why put subject in parentheses? Heretofore we have not considered ourselves as subjects. Are we really changing to a despotism or to an empire or to a kingdom where the people are considered as subjects?

I shall come to my native land however & snap my fingers at Mr. Lincoln & his Proclamation I know a way & shall follow it if absolutely necessary: but otherwise.

And now to receive this let us talk of money matters. In future I would be glad that you arrange that all ~~loans~~ sums of money due for plants in Europe be payable in Cuba Let this be the standing arrangement to be followed or abandoned as we think best. Even you will admit that Spanish gold is more solid property than Wd. Green Backs & if I had all my property invested in it I would feel richer than I do. But let things remain as they are except in answer to your question "How shall I pay you." If you dont want the use of the funds or the care of them turn them all over to my brother. That matter is soon settled. And you can continue to do so with any funds you may hereafter receive from subscribers at home. He will invest the money in some way to my benefit so that when I am old I shall have something to live on unless as he suggests the whole country becomes bankrupt & the Government contractors become owners of the whole country (the public debt now amounting to 1/4 of the assessed value of all kinds of property in the whole country) in which case we shall be subject of a few villainous speculators who are sucking the life-blood of the nation. If I can get the value of my collections still unsold in Spain in gold I shall have something sure. Methinks no sane man can censure such a course

You think that in a year longer slavery will have ceased to exist. I would like to know who then will drive the negs? — for without driving they'll not work & if they don't work

how will the South "get to be something"? as you say in a former letter. Give 'em Yankee drivers & make 'em free slaves. Yes give 'em Bradford and they'll soon be crying for their old massas and "de good ole times" The severity of Yankee drivers is proverbial. But dont imagine, a moment, that I shall weep for the abolition of slavery. Try it on all you that wish it all in a lump. I wash my hands of the whole concern.

It is encouraging to know that near 1/4 of my collections are "as good as new". It seems that in my naming I have jumped astride of a number of old names & been pitched off. Pray let me lie there & not show me up in print covered with mud or dirt. The cause of the rejection of most of my names (the rejected ones) I can clearly see—prior or preoccupied ones or barbarous compounds (leucostylus should have been leucogynes which would have stuck) The substitution of Phyllanthus rubra. m. for my Phyllanthus purpureus and of Acalypha radicans. m. for my A. reptans, Dear, I see, why is it? And why is it "remarkable" that Stegnosperma should be found in the "West Indies" when Rich published long ago his S. cubensis. & what has become of Bicca scandens? Gris. wont recognise it? And Euphalea leiandra why rejected for E. hypoleuca? And where are all the Euphorbias. I should think there ought to be a dozen. There is a Pisonia or something of the sort collected in abundance certainly overlooked or postponed. Perhaps however all these will come out when the whole come under examination.

Richard James writes me for plants & in such terms as to indicate that he considers me pledged to him which I surely am not. He wants them too in small detachments as he being as he says a poor man can not pay the whole sum at once & is unwilling to incur obligations which he may be unable to meet. I shall write him that I will do my best to gratify him but can pledge you to no condition of any kind. Mrs

propositions indicate an honorable man & confirm the favorable opinion I had of him at our first & only interview

I returned from my late excursion my mind fully made up to settle all my affairs here speedily go on to Habana dispatch every thing north that I have collected go on east and as soon as the season should become comfortable at home—say June—embark for my native land. But now getting these encouraging letters the still unpleasant state of matters at home the conviction that there is yet so much to do yet here—nearly all the palms for example not collected or in small quantity—the advice to stay of friend Blain. the strong desire I have of making an excursion in company of Gundlach—these & other reasons make me hesitate and I will wait at least awhile longer. Letters from Veteras inform us of the dangerous illness of my good old friend Lescaille. In July he performed a hard journey to Cuba & back (and he rides always as if the d—l was after him) He took also imprudently repeated doses of a powerful medicine & was prostrated & confined to his bed. He is getting old too—well on to 70. His friends have little hope that he will recover. His daughter has returned fr. France quite accomplished and as good as she is accomplished

When again you have occasion to send books or other matter (I wait anxiously the remainder of Gris Fl. Br. W. I. I.) be so kind as to send a copy of Pl. Wr. Cub. & Filices for Friend Blain We are under the deepest obligations to him. I will give you too a new address better I think than Sanvalle viz Dr. Dn. Felipe Poey Calle de la Amistad No. 120 Habana"

I sympathise with you & her in Mrs Grays affliction & hope that with the return of warm weather if not before she will pick up. I conclude you are as well as usual as you say nothing to the contrary and am glad. I too continue in good health. Thank God!

And now if you should think my criticisms severe & perhaps they are don't imagine that they are made in an unfriendly temper Far from it. I think you laid yourself open to criticism. But if you *think* as you write & your party as you do. God help us. if it gets the upper hand.

Another thought has occurred to me. As in future I can not expect to find novelties by the dozen & my herborizations must be more a labor of love for science than a remunerative one for me it would aid me much if I could know pretty near what species are all taken up so that I could collect these only & neglect such as still remain on hand. I will therefore inquire if you could possibly tick off such as are wanting or the contrary. for my guidance I can not ask you to do it if it should prove much of a task tho' it would doubtless greatly contribute to the perfection of Cuban botany by directing attention to such things as are of value & saving the labor which might otherwise be bestowed on worthless plants. Perhaps more subscribers may come in & I might keep at work much longer if not with great profit at least gaining a little all the while. And when you send add a list of the contents of the parcel even to the most trivial object or the custom house agents will put a fine (multa) upon me several of which I have already had to pay.

I have about finished all I have to say & fills my sheets nearly. I must now close & dispatch it. Pray don't work yourself to death the coming summer

Yours ever Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Retiro Feby 5th 1864

My Dear Dr.

This morning came a note addressed to Friend Blair advising him that the writer Mr Gen Gotwing Kennedy had just come from Cambridge & had brought for me a parcel of books Being written in English I acted as interpreter. Mr. Kennedy says he will probably set out for Cuba tomorrow in which case he will probably take the parcel with him unless he learns in some way that I am still in this part of the island. I have written to him both at Habana & Cuba advising him how to dispose of the parcel

Many thanks for your kind remembrance of me & I hope I will soon get the books.

In my last I criticised some expressions in your letter of the first ult. "A. Lincolns Dominion" has stuck in my throat ever since. I dont know what to think of it — whether you were writing seriously or in jest. I dont know what "A. Lincolns Dominion" can mean. It may be synonymous with "Fort Lafayette" for ought I know. At all events I want nothing to do with it. I have tried my best to believe "A. Lincoln" a good honest man. If he is a candidate for reelection this act will sweep away the last vestige of that belief & will make him, with me, a demagogue of the first water. I dont know how other honest conscientious people think but for me if I had had one such trial of office & honor as he has had I should not want a "bout" of it. One term, for me, would be a bellyfull Perhaps you'll say "pure patriotism". Fudge! nonsense! you needn't try to stuff that down my throat. It won't go.

I've been analyzing studying my wants & all the time I've been studying about "subjects" & "A Lincolns Dominion" If I've written on this theme more than you want to read I can only say "it has stuck in my throat" & I cant get it loose.

Dr. Engelmann wants seeds of Pereskia. Todro C. got some of a foreign sp. which - I inclose. I hope they will do. P. portulacifolia the only indigenous sp. I know I have not met in this part of the island. I'm not doing much just now examining some orchids à la mode Darwin. collecting now & then something that may fill up gaps in sets where there are such & c
Write in your next to have better new of Mrs G.

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Card No. 30.

Retiro July 14th 1864

My Dear D.

Just got your letters of 21st & 29th ult both at once. You see what queer caprices our letters cut up. The former, say you, came with Mr. Kennedy. He wrote us (or Don José) the 31st & the note ought to have reached us the 2nd inst but probably he delivered it to his landlady — she to her servants — & what do they care if it ever reaches its destination? We got it the 6th the day preceding that set by Mr. K. for his departure (probable). I did the best I could under the circumstances. I wrote to his address in Habana & also dropped him a note directed to Cuba. And while giving him good advice (especially) not to trust to any body for what he could do himself just see what I did. A nephew of friend Blair was going to the city the next day (6th) & so I ~~delivered to him~~ wish to my brother inclosing a line for you and with the note for Mr. Kennedy. went to his house or the house where he was staying & delivered the letters as it appeared to me the best course I could adopt although he would not start for a day or two — waiting to have his clothes washed. day after day he stayed & finally was taken sick and there he is yet. I hope you will get my note in the course of time. There are no postal regulations between the U.S. & Spain or at least Cuba & I have to send my letters to a friend in Habana (for safety) We get letters fr. Habana the day after they are despatched. I. I send a letter to the post-office in Stabrus today it will arrive in the city tomorrow late. I however can go fr. here to Habana in a day starting early.

Do you know why Mr. Boissier changed my name Euphorbia phipsalvoides to E. cassythoides? If he thinks it more appropriate I beg to be allowed to think otherwise. It is strikingly like. Phipsalis cassytha. & not very like any sp. of Cassytha that I have seen. & I have seen enough of it & in not a few places

Perhaps there was a prior E. rhipsaloides tho' it seems hardly probable — Your nigger-loving Congress has done such queer things since I have been away how could I know but it had made us all subject to Encyclia &c now &c.? Well I am glad it is not so bad as I feared tho' you have had a laugh at my expense. "But soberly" you have been believing that the rebellion was in its last throes ever since it broke out yet it seems almost as active & lively as ever tho' according to some accounts in rather seedy attire. Are we then wasting upon accounts that it is well to thump as an adversary

Doty has also made application for plants for Madrid You might send sets of mosses ferns, lichens. two or three of each & I must go on picking up additional specimens of all things I am not since now raising already in abundance. I guess you'll do well generally in obtaining a pretty full set for me. I can sell it afterwards if I choose or give it away as that suits me better

When I asked you if you could mark such specimens as are scanty I thought bowbabble you might do it to some extent — guesswork — to memory. But perhaps I'd better go on trusting to luck & do the best I can & the later collector things I have a general idea (except as regards ferns mosses &c) of such sp. as are scanty particularly those that I've been able to study. Could you give me the description (brief) of Micranthemum? I am disposed to think we have some sp. here — I did a pretty large business in these little things on my last trip & I want to keep my eyes open for them in future. I've become fond of them.

I am making now & then observations on the fertilization of orchids — very imperfect they must be I have no means of determining genera even much less species. Not often I have leisure for even the few observations which my scanty skill is capable of In Yatens I found often an Ophrys abundantly yet never saw a flower open so that a small insect to say nothing of a moth could enter. Moral: I don't believe that it ever expands. When then I read Mr Darwin's work & saw he adopt exceptional conclusions to which his researches led him tho' favorably inclined towards his theory I was freed to dissent from his conclusions. And all my observations on tropical orchids though very imperfect confirm my scepticism. In one of the orchids which ripens now at Fr. — Stenorhynchus speciosus? I examined every capsule, 20 or more already well grown & found all the anthers on the apex of the column & the pollinia within them. Epidendrums have the anthers slightly attached to the column & in some at least there appears nothing adhesive about them but the caudicles & I see not how an insect could well come in contact with them Further I rarely find many of the pollinia removed from a spike of many open fl. — more than might rationally be attributed to wind — to jarring &c: in collecting or conveying home I have lately put the pollen upon the stigmas of a number of fl. of an orchid which ordinarily ripens very few capsules if any. Five of the plants have already ripened many flowers & there are only two swollen ovaries or one of them There is a prospect of many more flowers

I've made proposals to Grindlach for a little run north next summer. If he consents you may look for us about July. I may come any how whether he consents or not. To return again in the autumn

The Cuban Epidendrum (I forget I know its name) is now in flower &. I see yet nor & (26th Now I have them)

Occasionally I dry a specimen or two from friend Blain's garden of exotic plants in the hope that sometimes they may fill up gaps in your herbarium. Today I saved some of Gmelina Rheedii. Now you've given away your collection you may not feel so deeply interested in such

things. I guess however they'll be Pshaw! acceptable I meant to say successful. I once wrote a little critic on Grisebach's reduction of Clematis Havanensis Rich to C. divica. Today we've been examining Swartzia Lagroana The leaves on the upper side are smooth as glass. just as represented by Rich yet Gris. says they are rough. However he ought to have said rough or smooth just as he ought not to have said of Clematis divica. "segments — entire & then referred to it C. Havanensis Vth.

When I was at Santa Espiritu on my way to Habana I had a letter of introduction & recommendation from Grisebach to a gentleman in Trinidad. I couldn't well go to this place but as I had accumulated a considerable package of dried plants & wanted to lighten my load I sent the parcel with the letter to Señor Cantero begging him to keep it till I return in the spring!! Two springs have passed away & a third is approaching. Well awhile ago I wrote to Don Pepito Cantero begging him to send me the parcel to Habana He waited some time in order to send it with all care in charge of his son & it is now in Habana. He wrote to Grisebach asking when he will again visit Trinidad offering his house & his horses & saying that there are yet mountains unexplored. He says moreover that in Grisebach & me are placed the destinies of the Natural History of Cuba. I mean now to write to Gaterau asking Mr. Lescaille to send me to Habana the plants I have there. Then I shall have all together ready to send when I go to the city or to bring with me if I & I shall determine to run home a little while in the summer.

Gris. has in the list of names Pachira emarginata Rich. I presume in the final determination he will refer it to Bombax with its abundantly cottony seeds. Bentl & Hook cite Richards name with a ? & very properly.

March A spike of the Stenorhynchus above mentioned had some terminal buds. Many flowers had passed & the ovaries were swelling

We cut off all these & covered up carefully the six terminal buds. They were kept so many days & are now well grown if not ripe fruits. No insect unless microscopical fertilized those flowers. I mentioned above the putting of the pollinia upon the stigmas of another orchid. I treated in this way 17 fl. Of these 14 have set fruits & the ovaries are growing rapidly All the others with the two fruits alluded to above excepted have fallen amounting I presume to more than a hundred. Now is these poor experiments are not worth reading about they are certainly not worth detailing. Pray tell me if they are quite worthless as it may save me future labor.

I make now & then excursions into the hills adding if not novelties known plants to my coll. to fill future demands. Tomorrow I think of making an excursion of a couple or more of days into the savanas. I rarely fail to find something that I do not recognise if not new. It is pretty dry & unless I reach some lagunas or rivulets I dont calculate on finding much

It seems an age that you have written me nothing of Dr. Torrey. I trust his health is better according to the proverb "no news is good news"

Occasionally I start off on a tangent particularly if business is not brisk Thus latterly I have been drying fruiting specimens of all the orchids I meet This is no small job I suppose I will be or some use.

Gundlach says he cant go with this summer & counsels me to go now [illegible] going in July. I shant do it. I'd have to buy out a clothing store to enable me to face your March winds & at Habana prices I'd have no money left to pay my passage to say nothing of the discomfort I'd experience. I'm the most fixed up critter imaginable during the winters & when I have to swallow a New England winter I must begin with homoeopathic doses.

If you send on any specimens the best plan will be to

direct them to D. Sn Felipe Poey Calle de la Amistad
No 120

March 7. I intended to go today into the savanas but I am slightly indisposed with a diarrhea the result I— a surfeit perhaps—overeating. I have an extraordinary appetite. I'll wait till tomorrow & diet a little today — & I can I'll finish my letter & dispatch it. "Memorias" for Mr. G.

Yours ever

Charles Wright

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Dr. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Retiro 10th. Ap. 1864

My Dear Dr

Your two lett's of 22nd & 30th ult came this morning (rec'd. together - the former containing Grisebach's 2nd list of names, and the obituary of Dr. Botts. I go over them to make observations answer questions &c. & then I shall tell you a little of what I am doing & intend to do.

I beg Mr Kennedy's pardon for thinking he did just as is quite natural any stranger might do - consult his landlord on such subjects as he himself ought not well understand & then follow the counsel given. I thought intermation that which he received at the Post Offic[illegible] I dont see why you should say "and foolishly - not finding where to leave the publications, brought them one & again." I think I should have done the same.

I shall write to Pory on the subject of the sets of plants & state your suggestion to wait a further distribution. That orchid which yet blooms without opening its flowers is not found in this part of the island as well as I remember only from the Cobre Mts eastward.

- I have now plenty of good specimens of the Cuba Ingrams (Fl 1865) —— also of Cicca arborea

Glad to hear that Dr. Torrey has good health again. Tell him to give his "cod liver" to some railroad engineer the best use it can be put to. Poor Mr. Le Conte dies of "LeRoy."

I still have the draft on Roeding. I have intended to send it to Lyndlach for collection so soon as he advises us when he will come this way.

Last week I run down to the south coast for a few days to look for new plants & feed musketoes & jejenes. I did a little of all three. I brought home quite a lot of pl. - a palm not till now collected a coccoloba which I believe

to is new to my coll.— A plant which reminds me of Dola cantha (tr) just putting forth its little leaves. I once before saw it not far fr. Iguanaburnum.— A Ruellia which I don't know— a Lippia which looks strange (they all look weedy & foreign). This year I shall get plenty of flowering spec. of a little leafless orchid which I have often met with fr. but not till now with fl. (Oh how I want something with which to study this fam.). I am drying up as fast as I can that I may again be at liberty for another excursion. which I shall be in a day or two. Today I saved fl. of a Rhamnidium? At least it agrees well with the character. Have you have fruiting specimen of last year. I shall soon get fl. of Casasia I hope. Gris. has Piriadca monodynama nn Is it not Richard's Costar Cubensis? And should it not retain this ~~sp.~~ specific name? Did you mean Ottonia Spruct. & Sphaeranthera when you wrote Okenia? & what is Behaimia Leubensis, n. gen. Gris in Pl. Ro. Prehaimia Cubensis. n. ge printed in Pl. Wr.

Today passing a plant of that great Bucidium of which I wrote in my last I fertilized all or nearly all of the fl. about 50. Let us see if art will do more for it than nature so far as concerns the setting of its capsules

Gris enumerates Belairia spinosa. I wish I could see it. I have sent abundant specimens of a Belairia with bifoliolate leaves & named it Belairia bifoliolata Wr but that is not B. spinosa of Rich. by a great deal. I hope you will see that no blunders of such a size as commitha

I want a copy of Pl. Wr. Cub. bound with alternate blank leaves of sized paper for notes observations &c— also a like copy for friend Blain who will thus aid us greatly Some time when you go to the binders you could leave the order unless you think it best (and perhaps it is) to wait till I come or even till the continuation Pt. 2 is printed.

If I have just made some nice experiments on another Bucidium. I have recorded them The downward movement begins immediately on drawing out the pollen masses

"Griseb. wants that Cuban Jacquinia greatly." He surely has or can have fr. leaves & I enclose a few fl.— with these he will have data enough to determine it I think

I sent you nothing named Caryopteris Cubana. It was Caryopsis You write Lebidibia; Gris Tebidibia. Who is right?

13 Some days ago I found a Colubrina cornus bush just showing its flowers. I could find no ovules in the ovary. Yesterday I found the same without a rudiment of stamens. It is no genus in the Genera. The characters appear clear. Cal. 5 cor 4-nerved cor. imbricate Ovary 2-celled with a pendulous ovule in each well developed

Shall we never hear more from Mr Lindley? I suppose you still send him as at first specimens of the orchids. If he don't work them up they had better be trusted to other hands. And when the 2nd pt. Pl. Wr. Cub. is published it would be well to include all these & those formerly reported by Mr L. in that little paper printed some years ago— that is the characters of the n. sp. should be given in full. Will it not be well to do so?

Yesterday I examined a plant of that great Bucidium I had 62 fl. all open, & not one had its pollinia removed

As Mr. Sullivant, without consulting me took the liberty of sending my Hepatica to Gottsche I suppose he will consider himself in some degree responsible for their reappearance. I should think he might have the goodness to let me know when if ever they will be elaborated

Euphrb. cassythoides I saw but one & suppose it to be very rare & probable that none but myself had met with it. Likely it is more common in some part of the island I have not seen

to be new to my coll.— A plant which reminds me of Hola cantha (fr) just putting forth its little leaves. Once before saw it not far fr. Guantanamo.— a Ruellia which I don't know— a Lippia which looks strange (they all look weedy & foreign) this year I shall get plenty of flowering spec. of a little Euphorbia or two which I have often met with fr. but not till now with fl. (I know I want something with which to study this fam.). I am drying up as fast as I can that I may again be at liberty for another excursion. which I shall be in a day or two. Today I saved fl. of a Rhamnidium? At least it agrees well with that character. Bion have fruiting specimens of last year. I shall soon get fl. of Cassasia I hope. Gris. has Pavonia monodynama n. Is it not Richard's Lostan lentiscus? And should it not retain this ~~n. sp.~~ specific name? Did you mean Ottonia Spreng. & Sphaeranthus when you wrote Ekenia? & what is Behaimia lentiscus, n. gen. Gris in Pl. Rents

Today passing a plant of that great Bucidium of which I wrote in my last I fertilized all or nearly all of the fl. about 50. Let us see if art will do more for it than nature so far as concerns the setting of its capsules

Gris enumerates Belairia spinosa. I wish I could see it. I have sent abundant specimens of a Belairia with bipolicate leaves & named it Belairia bipolicata Wr but that is not B. spinosa of Rich. by a great deal. I hope you'll see that no blunders of such a size as commit

I want a copy of Pl. Wr. Cub. bound with alternate blank leaves of sized paper for notes observations &c— also a like copy for friend Blain who will thus aid us greatly Some time when you go to the binder you could leave the order unless you think it best (and perhaps it is) to wait till I come or even till the continuation Pt. 2nd is printed.

If I have just made some nice experiments on another Bucidium. I have recorded them The downward movement begins immediately on drawing out the pollen masses

"Gris. Cub. wants that Cuban Jug. lanceolata greatly." He surely has or can have fr & leaves & I enclose a few fl.— with these he will have data enough to determine it I think

I sent you nothing named Caryopteris Cubana. It was Caryopsis You write Lebidibia; Gris Lebidibia. Who is right?

13 Some days ago I found a Clusiaceous bush just showing its flowers. I could find no ovules in the ovary. Yesterday I found the fl. without a rudiment of stamens. It is no genus in the Genera. The characters appear clear. Cal. 5 or 4-nerved cor. imbricate Ovary 2-celled with a pendulous ovule in each well developed

Shall we never hear more from Mr Lindley? I suppose you still send him as at first specimens of the orchids. If he does work them up they had better be trusted to other hands. And when the 2nd pt. Pl. Wr. Cub. is published it would be well to include all these & those formerly reported by Mr L. in that little paper printed some years ago— that is the characters of the n. sp. should be given in full. Will it not be well to do so?

Yesterday I examined a plant of that great Bucidium I had 62 fl. all open, & not one had its pollinia removed

As Mr. Sullivant, without consulting me took the liberty of sending my Hepatica to Gottsche I suppose he will consider himself in some degree responsible for their reappearance. I should think he might have the goodness to let me know when if ever they will be elaborated

Euphorb. cassythoides I saw but one & suppose it to be very rare & probable that none but myself had met with it. Likely it is more common in some part of the island I have not seen

Kind regards to Mrs G. Glad to know that she is better

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Dr Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Wethersfield April 15th 1864

Dr Asa Gray

Dear Sir Yours of the
14th inclosing a check for my brother
for one hundred and twenty
dollars is received

Respectfully Yours

John G Wright

Retiro Ap. 22nd 1864

My Dear D.

In my last I think I mentioned a Melastrace on plains of which I had collected only 5. Day before yesterday I went into the mountains & brought a plenty of it. It has a single ovule in each of the two cells attached at the top. Fl. 4-merous, i.e. Sepals, petals Stam. 4 & stigma very distinctly 4-lobed. It is no genus in the new Gen. Pl. Another discovery I have made, which Gris. does not know which Hook. & Benth. do not know which Rich. did not know as he ought, which Swartz did not know as it ought &c. &c. The few books which I have represent the ovary-cells of Semitrocnia as 2-4 ovulate. Well! yesterday I found a sp. S. elliptica probably which has as many as 7 (5-7) ovules in the cell. But another sp. which looks like the fig. of S. obovalis has as many as 14. & in several fl. examined I found never less than 10!!

23d I have now plenty of specimens of Cacosia with flowers. In my late excursion I got some Myrtaceæ that look new but as I have never been able to study this fam. with any satisfaction I do not rely much on my judgment & go on collecting at the risk of saving "over & over again" the same thing. I got also a new Leucothoe with very white leaves — saw but one little bush of it.

30th On Monday (25th) I went to the coast at a point called Daiaiguan a little port-place for seabathing &c. I brought home a parcel of plants among them a palm of which I had not before got enough. I don't know as I found any thing which I had not seen before. Gris. does not report Rhus Metopium which surely I have sent in few specimens indeed & there in fr. He surely ought to know the plant in fruiting specimens. Now I have plenty of fl. Today I have again examined Semitrocnia obovalis & find as many as 24 ovules in the cells — 10-12-15-20-24. &c

May 7th Yesterday I went into the hills for a sp. of Philodendron discovered by a negro of one of Don José's nephews. So far as we know it is confined to one small locality where are however a good many plants. Of course I know nothing of its value as to novelty. I have as yet but very few specimens — hope to get more by & by. We

have news as late as the 30th fr. N. Y. with all the particulars of the late events in Lou. & N. C. The campaign seems to have commenced with reverses on your side. You may console yourself with the saying "Good beginning bad ending" D.V. tomorrow I go to San Leon where I was last year about this time or a little later when my horse died [illegible]. It is not probable I shall find much to detain me many days. We have had a few good showers but the rainy season hardly seems to have fairly begun yet. Himeneia Americana now gives us fr. a strong tho' pleasant acid with a decided flavor of bitter almond—seed large & pulp thinnish. A sp. of witey—a large tree fr. Africa now affords us a fr. for variety—with a thick but sweet & pleasant pulp. We have also Annona squamosa

Yours truly

Charles Wright

P.S. 19th Inst. I made an excursion of 10 days on horseback to La Grange, Del Rio, &c. &c. & returned to Lockhart's Crossing on Blanco River. Found new crops looking finely. Cotton & corn Rio Colorado & Texana flourishing. Could not reach Victoria. Cant conclude exp. but go on very well & the little hurricane we had & the rains will benefit. Cant perhaps the corner ice letter for about ten days.

C. W.

Dr. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Retiro May 29th 1864

My Dear Dr

I have only just now received yours of the 8th – 29th ult. You already know that Mr Kennedy something of P.C. doings in Habana. This morning came three letters from you, bearing the N.Y.P.M. May 7th on the envelope, on one side is the smallest segment of the Habana P.M. One fr. Tuckerman N.Y. P.M. Sep. 23. Habana P.M. [illegible], One fr. my brother N.Y. P.M. Sep 26th no Habana Stamps at all. This generally comes very distinct & legible But such treatment enough to vex a fellow & make him growly. I must have an agent for this business in Habana. I haven't much to relate now having written so lately. But last week (23d) I went again toward the south coast & besides gathering a goodly number of things some perhaps new others if not new not without value I elucidated one doubt. In my last or a late letter I mentioned a plant that called to mind Solacantha. Well I got flowers & find that it is a Buettneria. I found also a Sterculia (Id. Lagrava) which fr. its size color & habitat may prove a third species of the genus in Cuba (I have sent on two I believe)

I have written to Henry Lescaille asking him to ship to N.Y. – giving him directions &c the packages of plants which were left at N. Sophie when I came on here. I have now only a small bundle of collecting paper & when that is all full I shall be ready to turn home. I am drying the collection of the last trip (4 days) & soon I shall be ready for another. I go to Jovellanos & that environs, place Las Macas, & then continue westward while my paper lasts

Glad that Tuckerman has got the Lichens in a presentable condition & that they go off well. You can doubtless arrange that European purchasers make payments to some one agent or at least not more than two on whom

I can draw when I want money. Will it not be best?
Sorry to hear bad news of Lindly & of Darwins continued
poor health. Will he be able to finish his great work?
Or. is there yet much to do towards its completion?
My brother writes me of the receipt of £120 for you
a/c. 15th — Sorry you forgot to answer my question about
bicca. It would gratify friend Blair so much — He has
been trying to cross a smaller species of Passiflora - P. edulis? —
with P. quadrangularis and of your flowers. Him treated three
promise to come to maturity — all the rest fall. Darwin's re-
sort to unsexuality to explain why that great Cucurbitum
does not set its fruit would avail him much for flow-
ers fertilized artificially set their fruits well — that is I
impregnated each one by its own pollen. But I may
add that I have seen this year one or two fruits growing
on plants which could have had no help but that of
insects. Having an opportunity of sending to Habana with-
out referring to the P. O. I close

Yours truly Chas Wright.

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Habana July 27th 1864

My Dear Dr

I came here the 21st: My package of plants or the receipts for them did not reach me till the 23d It was then too late to go for them that day & the next day was Sunday. Monday was a "fiesta" & I could get them till yesterday They are now in boxes & nearly ready for shipment

Some time ago I sent to the city your drafts on Hamburg. Nobody would have it. I had however some hope that with my explanations I could sell it. All in vain. All business between this city & Hamburg is done in "Marcbanco" When then the bill was presented the Merchants thought they did not say "you are a fool or a swindler." Mr Brooks offers to indorse the bill & nobody would buy it on those terms. I borrow money to come home home on it —— I am so lucky as to get away

The next thing after getting my things in hand was to look after my passport. I went to an agent in this business who told me it would be necessary to send to Yateras=Guantanamo for a pass which should state that I was a bachelor &c & that I wanted to go home. This was not to be thought of — better give up the trip at once. Prof. Baird procured me a letter of recommendation from the Spanish minister in Washington to the Captain General here but till now I have not presented it. I resolved to do it now little as I like to go about or have any thing to do with these "big bugs". I went yesterday but it was late. I went again this morning according to advice given yesterday. I returned as I went — the "big bug" was too -

busy to devote any time to little Bapp. I shall go again tomorrow & if lucky enough to get a pass I hope to embark for home the day following

I dont wish Mr Eaton any harm I would even risk much to shield him from it but I would rather like the fun of seeing him just in my situation for a half hour. May-be he would not be so hard on me for "growling" However bad as my situation is I would not swap it for his - "galloping ubels". I must say you've been unlucky in your efforts to help me along. We must study up some plan for the future before Autumn

I am very kindly treated by my friends here Gundlach. Don Simon de Cardenas & a few others Were it not for the filthy place would be quite unendurable. I never want to see [redacted] again if I can see my friends out of it

28th My passport is in my pocket book - my plants are boxed up & marked - consigned to Westermann. I've money enough to come home on and some to spare (borrowed) & now nothing remains but to get my ticket for the steamer & go on board tomorrow. The plants however will not be shipped till day after tomorrow on another steamer - Mr Brooks thinking there would be hardly time to ship on the steamer for tomorrow

Please write me as soon as convenient. Tell me if you can accommodate me a day or two without much inconvenience till we can make other arrangements. I have little idea how long I shall be detained in Cambridge never having distributed any collection of such magnitude. I shall want to spend a few days at home of course. Kind regards to all & Yours truly

Chas Wright

Wethersfield Sept 18/65

Dear Dr.

I dont know where your hatchet is I shall begin to believe somebody besides me loses things sometimes. This time at least I have no misgivings about the disappearance of the hatchet. P.S. Look in the cellar

Do as you think best about the investment of the money. and I shall be under deep obligation to you for doing what I know but little about myself

If you are willing and Mrs Gray will act as almoner you may deduct one hundred dollars as tithes which she can employ in some charitable way If I might express a wish in the matter it would be in favor of poor widows & orphan children of the fallen soldiers.

I have been busy preparing my seeds and arranging some shells to carry to Cuba. I have begun a portfolio also Dull weather has delayed me a little. But it promises to be fair soon. A very few days will suffice to finish all I can do here. I mean to go one day to N Haven I think I shall start for Cuba before the end of the month or at least go to N. York before that. I dont know yet how the Steamers sail - have written Dr. Torrey asking him to send me their advertisements.

My sisters plant-cuttings &c. are doing well

Mrs Gray's & Miss Margarets kind regards are reciprocated by my sister and self

Queer that we get no return from the Spanish

Minister— I guess he has to write home for instructions on so momentous a subject! Well I shant wait for them— can doubtless get along without— as heretofore

Yours truly Charles Wright

Wethersfield
Ap. 24th 1865

Dear Dr.

Today came yours of the 22nd. Likewise one from Tuckerman forwarded (in which is a note for you) also the parcel of seeds (many thanks) Item the other day a Philadelphia letter forwarded by you & perhaps a previous one from somewhere — no matter.

I am about ready to go — might have been already perhaps — but I did not care much to hurry away too soon. Shall go to N. York next monday to take the steamer on wednesday

Dr. Torrey thinks I miss it in not going to Hayti. If I were sure I could travel from one end of the island to the other quite safely as I can in Cuba it would be a mistake perhaps — but could I do it?

You can if you please send me the £22. It will just about pay all my little bills previous to embarkation and my passage, I hope so I shall not need to disturb any other investment

Tuckerman wishes to know how he can send me his little papers as he publishes them. I think ~~you~~ he had better send them to you and they, with any of yours can just be handed to Bridge Lord & Co 6. India St at any time to wait a vessel for Matanzas or to any other shipping house to go in the ship's letter-bag addressed to Mr. Cay. I guess I had better advise him to follow this plan

I go to Hartford tomorrow when I hope to get my photograph for you. If it is not ready, I will send it when I can. One for Brewer also I propose to send as you will know his residence if he has left Cambridge which I do not. I can not fairly demand reciprocity on your part as you once sent me one in Cuba which I gave (though with your consent I believe) to Mr. Lesquille. But I shall be glad to have your card with your face on it.

I enclose a couple of plants of D. caerulea. Is it glabrous? By the way is that term necessary? If a plant has no hairs on it why not say nothing about it & dispense with the term?

Why accent Goodyera, one way and Lesleria, another? Methinks it ~~should~~ should be Goodyera

Yours ever
Charles Wright

Wethersfield Ap. 28th

P.S. A word on a subject which may interest my brother. It is wise to look forward to the possible-probable (sudden) death of either of us. As he is my agent here in all my worldly matters and as he & my sisters are those most interested in all that concerns my property it seems that he ought to be informed of the disposition you may at any time make of funds belonging to me which may be in your hands or may be invested by you. I trust therefore that you will give him such information on this matter as will secure to him & my sisters these funds in case of my death. (or yours) You can do it at such times and in such a way as will be most convenient to yourself. I ought to have spoken about it before leaving Cambridge but forgot it

C. W.

P.S. again May copy of your manual I find has not Sullivant's enumeration of

the masses and I do not meet it among my other books. Where can I get it separate in New York

Cayo bonito June 9th 1865

My Dear Dr

Down here on the edge of that great swamp, the Cienaga de Zapato just south of Matanzas I have been nearly a month in which I have added not a few plants, I trust, to the already enlarged flora of Cuba. Among them and not the least interesting is an Ash which I can not compare as I brought neither your Flora nor that of Chapman. A small Scroph. first drew my attention It is almost as minute as the Gentianthuses and belongs to no genus in Gris. Two Gerardias occur. one white-flowered which I got in considerable quantity before and which Gris. calls (I think wrongly) G. purpurea while now I have in abundance a purple-flowered plant (collected before in one or two specimens only) which may be the simon pure. Within these last days I have collected a sp. of Catopsis which I dont know & a yellow-flowered Vanilla. These cost trouble and time in drying. As I brought but a small quantity of paper here I can not save Sabal umbraculifera which is now in flower in more than two or three specimens. Among the Grasses & Cyperaceæ I have done a large business and I have no doubt they will afford some novelties. Pisonia subcordata. I have now in abundance. also Lysiloma Sabicu Benth. Some Compositæ among them a Eupatorium from the locality and a Melanthera may turn out novelties A sp. of Oldenlandia I have now which I do not remember. A sp. of Calyptranthes has a newish look & I have saved it Cameraria utusa fl. & fr. (young) I have now in plenty. Two sp. of Hypoxis H. scorzonerifolia and another which I can not determine Of a sp. of Tecoma which being in the savanas (Roble de la savana Vulg) is burnt down every year and flowers on the young shoots of the year at a foot or less in height I have saved specimens in quantity fl. & fr. as well as a large quantity of ripe seed Of some other plants also I have saved seed some more some less. This is the home of that little Ophioglossum which I once sent from savanas in the interior near Cuba

(yesterday I had the curiosity to count the number of plants on a small spot I measured off about a foot square and counted on it (hastily) not less than 60 (sixty) plants. I have a great respect for the judgment of Dr. Hooker but I am not ready to yield to his dictum that this is C. vulgatum. I am somewhat of a stickler for habit and C. vulgatum and my little plant are so different in this respect.

I shall have some crows to pick with Grisebach. You remember my trouble with Guidonia. Well I have examined it again that is to the best of my belief for now that your herbarium & its named specimens are not accessible my old doubts return upon me. But supposing I had Guidonia before me. let us see how it agrees with the Char. gen. The principal diferences between it & Casearia are the union of the filaments & staminodia which in the latter are said to be free In Guidonia the filaments are alternate with the "ciliate crenatures" of the disk. Well the intervals between the filaments are neither crenatures nor ciliate. They are villous staminodia as in Casearia In this two I find the same union between the filaments and the staminodia (in three species examined) even in C. sylvestris which differs most from the rest in appearance & habit this union can be seen though less notable

There is an unhappy transposition of characters in the two? sp. of Prockia. The two are but one sp. but unfortunately I have no means of determining which is the legitimate or prior name The Palma real is the genuine plant the Palma criolla the var. growing in lands whence the primitive forest has been cut away

Examining very young plants of Ogiera inderalis I find no central staminate fl. and the anthers are only deeply emarginate at base not tailed. The style-branches two are conspicuously bifid. This is so different from Grisebach's character that I would be much obliged if you will give it a look & see if there be two species concealed under this name. I will add that the anthers appear free as in Helianthea or but slightly united. Does it not belong to this tribe?

15th. For a day or two I have been laid up with a sore shin. Among the leafstalks of the Guana cana (Sabal umbraculifera) grows a Vanilla and as I could not climb the palm I cut poles and propping them against the palm I managed to get some specimens But in the operation I peeled both legs badly. One got well. But the other after promising the same favorable termination has inflamed and suppurated and as I said I am laid up with it. I hobble about however and do a little. I got a pretty good supply of the Vanilla by climbing as I have said poles and in a few cases adjoining trees and by felling some of the palms The Vanilla has a yellow flower of which I have made a particular description Lately I find another Lidacea which I cant make out. By the way Grisebach's reference of the one I found before to Bipura paludosa must be wrong for this has pale blue flowers while mine certainly had them yellow—I have accumulated a good large bundle of dried plants & have a few not yet dry These went this morning to La Termina Tomorrow we propose to follow. I shall have to return here as I found I think a new palm of which I could get only four specimens (fl.) It is Geonoma or Calyptronoma much smaller than those formerly seen and growing in quite different soil & situation. The Ciénaga which could be traversed almost every where a month ago is now a lake from which the waters will subside at the close of the rainy season when there will again be an opportunity of collecting any peculiar plants which may be found there

La Termina 18th Returned yesterday. I have asked Bay to have some more paper sent me from Havana. I shall probably spend ~~some~~ some few days on the north side near Matanzas before going to the Vueltabajo (Plains)

21st just got a letter from home inclosing copy of yours of Apr. 27th. The original was sent after me to New York which not expecting any thing of the sort didnt call for—so I suppose it is lost. You can send on to my brother any sums you may receive. Indeed just now it will be very acceptable for he is disposed to take stock in a coal company which promises

well and will afford one advantage at least – all stockholders have their own supply of coal or what they need for their own use at just cost & carriage being a considerable percentage below the price at which it is sold to the public. I am not quite sure that I understand perfectly your letter for it is a translation and they don't ~~under~~ read your dialect quite so well as I do

I have prepared a letter for Lyn's back which as it is very light I conclude to send through you. If you dont want me to do so in future please tell me so frankly. Indeed I may not wish to repeat the offense. But as it contains some remarks more at large than I have written to you I thought it might interest you. And if you think it best you may publish my remarks (or the substance of them in whatever way you please) on Crotons I am vain enough to think not only that my observations on this palm are correct but that they are worthy of being made known to the botanical public

Hoping to hear from you when you can command time to drop me a line I remain

Yours Truly

Charles Wright

Natchez July 9th 1860

[illegible] you asserted that you had [illegible]
[illegible] letter from me — and that you were [illegible]
the next page you acknowledge our [illegible]
[illegible] this time you will have got another [illegible]
[illegible] letters for Eusebach. I may [illegible]
[illegible] Junius [illegible] Lucien [illegible]
[illegible] wants [illegible] Stone [illegible]

I cant make a specialty of a set of Birds for Reichenbach. He must take his chance with the rest. You dont know the trouble it would be to me with such limited facilities for rapid work to undertake such a job. I want now to make as thorough a collection as possible [illegible] promise that he "will say well" has less weight with me than remedy

I came here a week ago. Prof. Poey had already arrived "en route" for an estate up the [illegible] leagues i.e. to the eastward of Fundlack suggested that it would be well [illegible] made out of the party. Poey employs his vacations Zoologizing. We were to have gone on [illegible] Thursday till for some reason it was delayed till tomorrow. I am staying with

Dr. Morales and I are as comfortably situated as could be expected in a city. I make excursions in the country & about the harbor in the daytime & regret mistakes at night. I have seen Cuba. My collection made in this city is in the trunk which is in my room. On my return I will pack & add what I may have by to those already on and of despatching the box to you. You think best you can select specimens for it and send them on to him

has been publishing Morales founded on Cuban botanists and which is Cervantes Historia Patria, Mart. Presume. Another useless expenditure. The publication is made in the "Repertorio fisico-natural de la Isla de Cuba". Perhaps I shall send it on though I can not now - I am writing little by little some observations miscellaneous which I may send to my mother through you & Asa Gray may It will be spent & Mrs Gray may promise much of the best but some truth respecting Cuban manners & customs Government agents oppressed people may be found in it

Mem. 6-25 A.M. Just got my coffee-city custom- when I go out raining I stop at a tienda and take my morning beverage before sunrise

I wish you would beg of Brewer a picture of the "big tree" either his own if such as he can procure and sometime when you have a good dinner you can send them on, adding a few. Trees to supply the place of such as become rotten and worthless. They are a decided hit among the poor people in the country

Although I do not wish you to be troubled by an "uneasy conscience" nor a "sore throat" I hope an impulse to write, of some sort, may not be wanting in the future, and that you will find some scrap of time now and then to keep me a little posted up on botanical matters

I saw a notice that the President had refused an important office to a protege of Seward and to another applicant in his own name or backed by some- body else and that he had given it to some one who was not looking for any thing - the sort of man will go on & kick all the miserable beggars of Washington he shall have my vote for President next election

Excuse two half sheets
You ever loving Wright

Jamaica July 24th 1865

Dear Dr.

Just got yours of the 4th & 12 inst with inclosures which have been read and the letter to Dr. Hooker is written but I was a little too late to send it today to Matanzas by mine host who only stayed a short hour and returned to the city. I have found another San Chaos only more so. I had heard of the "city of Cannaries" since I have been in the island. I was told by Grisebach that it was a place of strange vegetation but I did not imagine that it was so similar to San Marcos But it is not at the foot of Cajalbana with its pines. yet it gives me additional oddities. Randia with its rectangular ramification and other like Rubiaceæ. Cornutia idem Rhexia with leaves like a penknife too stiff little-leaved Malpighias Smilax to tie together all these rectangles and how is a body to get through it? True it isn't very tall climbing to go over it but then it tangles the legs tears the ankles pricks the fingers and even scratches the face. I have only once been in it am once on the edge of it — an ante-breakfast job Today I have been drying and casting and writing letters.

I came here only five or six days ago. But perhaps I had better begin at the beginning. I don't remember even if I wrote to you from Matanzas. Well I was some days detained there a prey to muskitoes and heat. At Palma Soba fresh air & sea-bathing ad lib. to offset good eating without stint. We fared sumptuously every day When it all comes from I can't see only on the sea-side. That was plain enough. I had all the other side to botanize in — not so much botany as work. But I got some novelty — an Ionidium — one of the rectangular sort and multiangular too if ramosissisissisissimum can make it so. An Aristolochia looks newish. You shall have much of Lithophila too — if it be really that which I think it is though I don't quite

agree with Grisebachs description. I shall probably have means to upset it if they are not already down some of the sp. of Sesarium But I got in Matanzas a Portulaca not in Cpis nor Rich though agreeing very well with a sp. in DC. Prod (I cant now recall the name. And what is queer a chenopod. abounds here reported from New Jersey and Pr. Mexico also from Siberia — Teloxys aristata so far as I can make it out without fr. (ripe or well-grown) — varies only

Morales has made a new genus of palms on Acrocomia lasispatha. He calls it Gastrococos armentalis. I may send you his character some other day

I stayed somtten or twelve days with Don José Gaicia at Palma Sola and with Poey a jolly old soul who takes short strolls when the walking is smooth swinging about his semi paralytic arm and leg. His right side is partially paralytic he writes with his left hand and straight down the page like the chinese or he turns the paper sidewise to him — the lines running up & down. Yet he has done a great deal to illustrate the nat. Hist. of Cuba. His forte is fishes. Butterflies & shells have also received considerable attention from him. But he felt the effects of the good living at Palma Sola. He found it hard to resist the temptation of any new dish set before him and went to sleep soon after eating — whether pretending to study or surrendering like a man Morpheus asserted his claim.

The day after my arrival here mine host Don Felix Garcia went with me to the bushes and I gathered hastily a good many things for examination. We returned to breakfast & the next day I went alone and spent a good half-day My paper is full but I can take out some dry plants tomorrow and I mean to go for another load. Here is one mimosaceous bush quite new to me and to my regret I have yet seen on it no fl. or fr. and I fear I must defer to another time a supply of specimens from it. The little Rhedia has nothing out leaves. At San Marcos I got it with fr. & fl. I have not yet seen. A Rhamnace is here again in fr. if indeed it be the same which I got in S. Marcos though this has one important character which I do not remember as belonging to that. Two little bags Bauhinias do not agree with those in Pl. Wr. A little Comps. quite new to me cost me a long search and I have not got enough. An Echites looks new. It is queer that I can not determine hardly any of the Cuban Echites by the characters in Cpis.

I should not be surprised to learn that the Cuban gentleman in negotiation with Grisebach is Mr. Sauvalle

I have a pet project in hand I have made a proposition to Baird, Bryant, Bland Scudder Cresson &c and others who have received presents of shells birds insects &c for Grisebach to contribute each something to be used in the purchase of a small library to be presented to him as a token of respect for his character as a man and for his industry in the cause of science. I headed the subscription with fifty dollars and authorised any one of the subscribers properly qualified by the rest to act for them to call on you for my subscription. I dont see how I can possibly send plants as you suggest to Grisebach. The boxes in Matanzas I have not there your specimens were to distribute in and to make duplicate numbers. It would be a tedious sweltering task and I dare not undertake it. I have been thinking that when I return to Matanzas I will send to you all I have dry (They will be swept from inkeeds rats and water) Then will be a good many novelties and it would be well be had them. But I can not ask you to take upon you the task which I so much dread: and then will it not delay for half a year his catalogue which I so long to have. And after all there must be supplement after supplement before the Flora can be any thing like complete and why worry ourselves to finish at once a work which from its very nature and the few laborers engaged

in it must be progressive and arrive slowly at perfection

I am among excellent kind people and what is more to the purpose rich and able to help along a poor fellow and this I little thought to stay away from Retiro and friend Blain so long. here I am and I suspect I shall stick a while yet to these briars

I have been working at Tillandsias and wonder is that I cannot make them out. Grisebachs first sect. has one character which I suspect is wrong (just now discovered) & so it is the cause of my failure. "Filaments finally twisted" I suspect should be "Stigmas sp. tw." Running over the sectional characters and seeing that one and not occurring in any sp. the stam. twisted I went on & through with the idea "Well! it is not in Gris". I have just collected Pisonia inermis? I got it at Guantanamo and it went home in the second lot I sent from Cub. Or. I got it at Sagua de Tanamo — Mr. Rivers — I got it at Guajaibon and now I have it again. Why is Gris so reticent about naming it? There will be enough of this anyhow.

29th Got another Tillandsia yesterday — Stam not twisted. These thickets have a Plumieria which differs in some respects from any one in Gris. They all have a very similar general appearance but the texture of the leaves and their perfect smoothness and want of prominence of the veins with some slight floral difference in the flower may serve to distinguish it specifically

Wishing you much enjoyment on your summer excursion and a return to duty with recruited health and strength both yourself & wife. I close

Yours cordially

Charles Wright

Matanzas Jan 15 1863

Dear Dr.

My dried plants are deposited with Lay to be sent by the first good chance to Boston. Tomorrow early I shall see that they are boxed up in good order and then I go to Herming to look after Lyndback who I am told is sick and that he had a fall. As soon as possible I shall return to Matanzas and thence to Friend Blains.

The plants are thrown into families according to the "Natural arrangement" given by Grisebach in his Introduction. But they will be in two series. Those collected in the Vuelta form one series those dried since in Palma Sola & La Jaula another. It will be but little labor to combine them in the first collection then may be a few unarranged — the last of those dried previous to my going to Matanzas

I send you Morelet "Iguanes Amentales;" Please keep it for me in "my pigeon hole" It is a very amusing book. I suppose I believe I wrote you that I might send you a lot of my observations of Cuban life. If you have time and and inclination read it & forward to my brother. I put in also some parcels of mud for Sullivant. Please forward them when convenient

If I have omitted a half dozen things and badly written often, please charge it to the account of the weather which is excessive, hot and sultry. I don't know how I stand it. I want to get where I can fling every thing but pants & shirt and let them hang loose outside

Yours truly
Charles Wright

Habana Sept 4th 1865

Dear Dr.

Just got yours of the 18th ult. which has nothing that requires many remarks in reply. Nor have I much of botanical interest to communicate but these last two weeks have been anxious and annoying ones and I have been cussing mad half the time — no handy that for it isn't in my nature to be screwed up quite so tight all the time. The confounded business of the licencia or pase has got again snarled up and I haven't yet got it disentangled. I have some expectation that tomorrow I shall, if not get out, at least see out.

With my landing ticket (term 30 days) I went away to join Lundlack doing a good business but overstaid my time. I did however my duty, sending my pase to the nearest office for exchange. The captain couldn't or wouldn't give me a new one because he had no printed forms. When I returned to La Fleming and wanted to come here I applied to the Capte. of Puerto for a pase to come to Habana stopping on the way at Matanzas. He gave it to me only to Matanzas & I stopped in that partida longer than I had designed to do. When I was ready to leave Matanzas it was a fiesta — one of their numerous holy days — more holy than the lord day and I couldn't get a pase for Habana and wouldn't wait. So when I got here I had to send the thing back to Matanzas in order to get on for this place. Then I had to get out one here to go elsewhere. And while one man tells me one thing another another & became so confused that I hardly know which end I stand on. But all agreed that it would be necessary to have a "carta de domicilio" a kind of sham citizenship in order to obtain an annual pase for the whole island. This is what I want and must have and although in years past I traveled with such a pass obtained for without being

domiciliated it was obtained irregularly through the intervention of friends. There is a regular circumbocution route for getting this document but it appeared likely to cost me many more days of delay. So this morning with the Spanish Ministers letter of recommendation to the Capt. General I went to the latter to beg him to give orders to have me despatched without delay. He sent me without a line or any evidence of having seen him to the "Secretario Politico" who sent me to somebody else & this one told me to go back & begin again at the first of the circumgyration office. I begged him to save me that trouble and on a little consultation with others they seemed to catch at some new idea and directed me to come tomorrow morning. By I dont get out of the scrape tomorrow in one way I am pretty nearly resolved to do so in another — to set out with my 15 days licence & when that is expired get another & so on. This will be better than to lose half the year here in the city sweating my very bones away and unable to do any thing of importance I suspect the Secretary put me off till tomorrow in order to ascertain if I told a straight story. But after all these different steps to get any document, pase, passport, licencia, are only so many robberies of the people to support the endless dependents of the government which is kept in existence only by the employment of natives of Spain in all offices of trust & emolument and by the soldiery who are equally Spaniards who care nothing about the prosperity of the island but seek only to make as much money as possible in the shortest possible time with the design entertained by most of them to return to Spain to enjoy it.

I have looked over Reichenbachs paper. It seems hastily and carelessly got up. No 3364 Bletia sarcophylla R. in my list is Epilingua Liliformis and 3207 Aeranthus pachyphlebus R. is Polyrrhiza pectinata How many others there may be I can not judge. I suspect he has purposely ignored some of my names though I can not say so positively

As soon as I get my documents arranged I shall go out to San José or Valestena where friend Blain is staying with his brother-in-law Sauvalle. Thence I shall make excursions as long as they seem to be productive.

Here I have made some additions to my list of plants already known and described in Richard. "Fl. de Cuba" or elsewhere but not enumerated found by me and some few which I can not make out with the books at my command. Indeed now I have only 6 pics. I find here three Orchas of the Sabestena strip — Sabestena vera a pale-flowered sp and a white-flowered (fl. very odorous) — these two last with smooth or nearly smooth calyx. There are differences in the leaves also. I have saved a pretty good supply of two dried one sopar as I can recollect quite near to my cabin. They are miserable ugly things but they must make a pretty full distribution. I cant collect and dry twenty flowers with corresponding sections &c. to make only two or three specimens. It is too tedious work.

Sauvalle wrote me a while ago that he did not wish me to deprive myself of a set of plants so he would select from the set I sent only such as he takes a special interest in and leave the rest for me This is something like what I anticipated Evidently he dont understand how much the value and interest of a set of plants is diminished by being divided in this way But no matter. I am under great obligations to him & ought not to complain. But it would be rather hard if all to whom I owe a like debt of gratitude were of similar mind unless they were like the couple one of whom liked fat & the other lean so between the two they licked the platter clean. So apparently the most of them will go back to Cambridge to be distributed anew

We are in the midst of a rainy spell. The hygrometer indicates a very humid atmosphere and it rains often early in the day (the spiral awry (a strip.))

whereas in ordinary times the rains fall only in the afternoon
Meanwhile I am getting together such little things as will be
useful to me in collecting shells insects &c to which I must
give some attention not to disappoint my zoological friends
some of whom expect me to do great things in their department
in addition to doing up the flora of Cuba

5th. My visit to the Capt. Gen and my flattering letter of recommendation
have all ended in smoke or wind. I went today and was dismissed in
short meter with the advice to begin at the first of the circumbendibus
offices which I shant do but make application for my "carta de domicilio"
in San Cristobal where perhaps the officials will be found a little
more accommodating. I shall go in a few days it being necessary
to give friend Blain notice to send the horses It is raining again
today and the rains from all accounts are very general.

Do you have any news from Agassiz and family?

Yours truly Charles Wright

P.S. I am sorry to learn that Mrs G. did not pick up a little
strength during your ramblings in New York

P.S. I suppose Sir William Dawson is dead
by now. I saw Lincoln's
in the office of the Times
in last evenings paper
the announcement of
the decease of some distinguished Patriot
and so I was as I ever [illegible] from his exploits
at Montmorency the name and knowing
that Sir William [illegible] was
in years has been for a long time quite
feeble I can hardly doubt the notice
refers to him So adieu veteran to you!

P.S. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Valestena Sept 21st 1865

Dear Dr.

Yours of four days ago came yours of the 5th inst. We are very glad to know that soon we'll have better aids in the study of the Cuban Flora. I wrote immediately to Grisebach begging him to send me every thing coming from him or others specially relative to Cuban plants. I am looking more carefully at the palms. Three, here, of the flabelliform kind — one with fruit in abundance — one with a very little (most fallen or aborting) these two slender — a third taller & stouter (60°) with neither fl. nor fr. Of the two first I have saved specimens. Of the last I shall get two or three leaves and wait for fl. till another time. We have been counting up the palms by their common names and make them about 30±

Mr. Sauvalle is making me some pencil drawings of Cactaceæ. He has a large number of such sketches made during many years — plain but faithful figures some few colored, mostly trees and shrubs

but little after 12.

When you write to Grisebach, will you beg him to send me all the small papers relative to Cuban plants that he has published & may publish in future. Perhaps he is not well aware how important they are to me, as aids in detecting plants or in discriminating them while collecting — studying in the intervals.

Yours ever

Chas Wright

P.S. Mr. Sauvalle is not the man who aids Grisebach in his publication, and we can't guess who it is.

Dr. Asa Gray

They might be of use to Grisebach and I doubt not he would lend them for illustrating any work that may be hereafter published on the plants of this island.

Friend Blain has a mucuna, of which he has saved me specimens. It departs from the Generic char. as given by Gris. in having (but narrowed above) the vexillum broadly obcordate. The seeds were from the north coast. On the adjoining plantation, we had often passed a small tree with the look of a Leochaenpus. Of this also he has dried me good specimens, fl. & fr. I haven't compared, but it is neither of those heretofore sent.

Sauvalle wanted to make a list of Grisebachs provisional names—as we went over all the packages, ferns excepted. And we had Eaton's book before us, for reference. Afterwards, I collected some ferns, and wishing to consult Mr. Eaton again, he is nowhere to be found. (have you found your hatchet?) Unless I buried him in some of the packages, Mr. S. has tucked him away in some nook & forgotten where. He has no memory for occasions like this.

Why does Gris make a new specific name (Asimina Blainii) for an old plant? And why does he locate our friend in Habana, which place he loves almost as little as I do?

I have begun to sow things promiscuously; clothing, knives, &c; but I lost my hatchet, and that hurts me dreadfully. I cant supply its place.

It is a rainy time, more so than usual, raining mornings as well as afternoons and at night also.

I cant say when I'll get out on a long tramp. I haven't yet settled the licencia business—the bugbear or better nightmare. I wonder like to have a few of the thieves over a powder magazine and enjoy the privilege of touching it off—(his name is Bulge—Mr. E.) old Commissioner "Ugridulce" and all.

22nd: Eaton is resurrected—one of my old tricks tied up in a bundle of dried plants.—I run over Sauvalles ferns last night and couldn't find some of the numbers in Eatons book (not reckoning the later ones 1870 odd). I think he has not been so careful as he might to have them. Raining again and cooler than usual in the day.—

Valdstena Oct 14th 1865

Dear Dr

No word yet from Grisebach. I wish you had sent me the "Catalogus": before now you could have had another and it would have been so useful to me: whereas I doubt if you have consulted it half a dozen times.

I have been pretty [illegible] & grasses. & penned & I found a single plant of what strikes me as a new [illegible] but as I [illegible] I cant trust much to memory. I got lately [illegible] digitate 15-foliolate leaves. [illegible] I dont yet [illegible] from this place—havent yet been to Rangel nor to the savannas. Havent settled yet the pass business and cant travel till that is all straight—dont know when that will be. Havent heard lately from Cay Suppose he will let me know when he [illegible] the plants He ought to have despatched them before now

I am in excellent health and live very comfortable here and busy too I want to get into a new field.

Cant you beg of Brewer a stereoscopic view of the Big tree and send me. I [illegible] some more pictures They are so

What is the difference between [illegible] triplinerved (vid Schweyn rufescens)

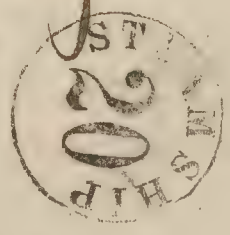
I return you Grisebach's letters, which you sent me and one (the last?) from Sir William Hooker which you

will want to keep 2 suppose

Yours ever
Chas Wright

P.S. Please try to send my "cactica" for Mr. Curtis

By Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.



Valestena Oct 23d 1865

Dear Dr

Yesterday we had the fiercest gale I have witnessed in the island. It was a hurricane but not of the most violent kind. It lasted all day but was strongest from midday till night The wind was very steady not blowing till after nightfall and then but a few times Trees were torn to pieces and palms blown down One very high one braved the fury of the gale a good while but fell at last. Today I measured it. It is 7½ metres from the ground to the middle of the swelling 21 to the base of the leaf-sheaths 22 to the top of these last and 24 to the highest point of the growing unexpanded leaf. This is the "Palma Real" and ought consistently to be the Oreodoxia regia that the names may correspond in meaning though the sp. is said to be the lower and to be devoid of a swelling. Within an eighth of a mile of the house may be seen hundreds of the Palma briolla the lower sp. (30-40') which you already know is in my opinion nothing more than a variety of the other growing on land from which all the timber has been cut away the "palma real" being always spared when this "tumba" takes place

A few days ago I went up the river Jacutaco to examine a palm growing by its side. It is a [illegible] but whether [illegible] the former They look much the same but the last differs in some respects from the description of the latter

found no fl. and cut but one tree for fr. and leaves not wishing to destroy the tree unnecessarily. I shall collect more some day. Before it gets cold I'll take back what I have said about the genus of this palm. It is Geonoma or Calyptronoma

I have written to Cay advising him to ship the [illegible] plants by the Boston steamer [illegible] announced at Habana. I thought he ought before now to have a chance of shipping it to Boston, & he probably thought so when I suppose waiting for such an opportunity which I now regret as I fear you will not have Hendler to help you distribute when it arrives

Nov. 1st This morning came a letter from Cay saying that the plants have been shipped some time and that a letter probably from you was forwarded to me lately. It has not come to hand. I got one from my brother yesterday in which he acknowledges another remittance from you and I was wondering you had not advised me of the fact But it was doubtless in the missing letter. I hope you'll repeat what in your communication was of importance as well as you can recollect - Nothing from Grisebach I didnt think he would treat me so, (the Cub. Pl. Cub.) Even in the cause of science he should send it to me before any one else if he can comprehend as well as I can or Cay, as well the aid it gives me in completing my collections. As I have often said and repeat it — without study no one in my judgment can collect thoroughly. And how can one study without books or something equivalent — as collections for comparison?

I am desirous that the contents of the enclosed note (which I beg you to forward in the way most convenient to yourself) should be reported on. If Wahler is returned I shall doubtless hear from him At all events I want some one to acknowledge its receipt. Would a line from you accompanying it ensure a perusal by young Agassiz or some one who will write me?

I am not yet out of the licencia snarl I have written to Guantanamo in hopes to get a copy of my old pass in years past

Yesterday I went into the savanas and got a lot of grasses & Cyperaceæ most of which I shall not determine. I got also a lot of what Grisebach calls Fimbristylis nyp- haidifolia which if I am not mistaken you thought hastily put down as Fl. n. It is not is Richard most surely

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Dear Dr

Balestena 7 Dec. 1865

Three months [illegible] dont know how I long to hear from you not only to know how you are but that you are doing [illegible] to know what has become of my [illegible] plants. It seems as if Old Nick had turned every thing wrong end foremost. Every body has forgotten me I believe. Eaton - nix! Lloyd - nichts! Gulliver - silencio! Dr Gray - [illegible] da! Grisebach, nichts! Baird sent me a letter through Poey who kept it six weeks in his trowserloons pocket. And so they serve this poor diablo. I cant help suspecting that some letters have been seized. There have been some lost I know an unusual proportion too. In the summer I sent one to Baird which never reached him. I have lost at least one from my brother and another (yours I suspect) between here & Matanzas - if not two

I keep pretty busy about here and am lucky at least to meet with things I dont know every day almost - am doing a big business among the ferns of which I find a good many which I cant make out by Lyn's book. When are we to have a second vol. from Berk. & Hook? By the way you may remember that among my plants was a specimen from friend Blair's garden - origin unknown - a mallow looking thing which took your eye as a novelty. Well I have examined it so carefully that I am convinced that it is a Sterculiad unknown to those gentlemen. I have saved some more specimens

I send you a little novelty which may be called Leiopsis if it is not yet Aristeud - rays 2 central 8 numerous - intermediate 2 with a very short slender tube very numerous. No mature seeds yet - hope to get some by and by

The papers last evening brought us lots of news. [illegible]

the steam steamer brought me letters which will come this evening
If I don't get letters soon I shall grow [illegible] and [illegible]
something I am afraid

Pray write and give me some data for judging if my letters
are seized Best regards to Mrs G. & hope she enjoys good health

Yours ever
Charles Wright

P. S. As I get nothing from Lyis back I beg leave to communicate
with him once more through you

Lt. Col. Gray

Dr Sir

Please insert in [illegible]

to your last of [illegible]

[illegible] Boatswains

(or other wise [illegible] the plant [illegible]

[illegible] Nov. Sowalle is going over his [illegible] to Blum. & Mosbach & Mus. of San Francisco. Because a large portion of flowers are for. [illegible] Thin good things. For example Mosbach found somewhere Francisco Aro. Reine Cyr. and there are other things which I have not yet met with. We [illegible]

[illegible] (gr.) S. accruphalus Hook. (2102) [illegible]

[illegible] Pleuria inermis [illegible] Pleur. inermis

discolor No 2135 D. Bayth.

In sight of the [illegible] a small [illegible]

[illegible] Blechnum [illegible]

[illegible] Laguna is covered with it. Near

3rd return Nov 21 [illegible]

[illegible] your doubts about the d[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible] Comandaregato
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] P. Expositions,

[illegible]

What [illegible]

I [illegible] in your letter [illegible] I [illegible] we [illegible] as [illegible] ourselves [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

STEAMSHIP
10

Baltimore May 17th 1856

Dear Sir

I was in the pine woods in such a rapid [illegible] that I was unable to [illegible] at the time. I [illegible] [illegible] their time [illegible] occasionally [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Ritiv March 15th 1866

Dear Dr.

This morning I returned from a two days tour in the Iowa – a good long & tedious tramp. I found yours of the 5th – the shortest passage of any letter I have had in a long time. I hoped to get another letter from Eaton before he "swung off" according to the tenor of his last. I haven't any report from Bay of the arrival of the Gen Pl. – nor have I any more sheets of the Cat. Pl. but I one days ago I took a tramp similar to the last one also on foot my knee has a sore back, and I am a pretty good business. Yesterday I have kept a bit of sunday with gentle and Lane but much like S. Havanensis in texture. I thought probably it was a var. of it now I saw it in such abundance & so uniform that I can hardly doubt its distinctness. I found a new Eupatorium with dark green shining leaves & I got a plenty of the [illegible] which I have been so many times to examine in vain till now. Yesterday I found a large taper Tagara (as Lyon would call it I suppose) but with 4 or 5 — one pair of leaflets — on young shoots two – stem petioles & rachis prickly. It is quite [illegible] to me. I found other localities of the new Aneimia which I took home with me more than a year ago & collected a few specimens. It is rather too early yet. I found three Botrychiums which bothers me having in my poor judgment a mixture of the characters of Virginianum Obliquum & Ramosissimum. A Triceratium not [illegible] form looks familiar but as usual look as much like [illegible] I have no description almost & saved a plenty. A Polygonodium of which I got one or two scraps some time ago turned up a plenty in abundance. It looks "quite otherwise" as Lincoln [illegible]

I expect to go across the mountain soon but don't know exactly when. Carvalho intends to go to Tuscarora next month to open communication [illegible]

Jos Cann and its neighbor Grayjaibon have been good holding ground & I dont believe they can get away with us

You may make Miss Eberna the present you speak of in my name if you will adding my sincere wishes for her happiness

I have no very late letter from my brother. Latest letter from home Feby 18th.

I sent you a box of preserves and have some more stored away somewhere but cant think of them & never mind it

Hope Mrs G is well

Yours ever
Charles Wright

Capt Chas Gregory
Cambridge
Md

Ruthin March 25th 1866

Dear Dr

No news from Grisebach and I feel growly about it. In looking [illegible] I see that when he sent me the first sheet of the Cat. [illegible] the diagn. Euphorb. in Gött. Nachr. & Trautvetter in Linnaea. Why didn't he send them to me. He might if I had the already to know that I need such help [illegible] I can't well get at it when here surrounded one might [illegible] "He's only a collector—a nobody—he don't make books and a great noise in the world—no matter whether he was [illegible] or not". He can't [illegible] so much quicker via England [illegible]

Since I wrote you last I've made two Welsh excursions in the mountains collecting not a few things that [illegible] a fog with little [illegible] rain almost [illegible] about 9 or 10 days—a very unfavourable season—A Xanthoxylaceous small slender tree unfortunately [illegible] leaves only but quite distinct from any thing I have yet seen. Some bits of a Moschus [illegible] I can't determine—an Aspidium—a Pleurothallis very [illegible] the sepals all quite distinct—some apparently new Hieracia [illegible] Cruciferæ!! &c. One of the palms of which I collected leaves during the winter is just ready to blossom—a Thrinax? (Brithrinax?) ovary 3-celled. In my last excursion I got a good number of [illegible] specimens. My object in this last was [illegible] which [illegible] Edgeworth or Syd Blair had given us an account of. [illegible] I can't carry [illegible] that I may be able to converse at once in their people when I [illegible] Spain. This is a vile year. Cattle & sheep are dying of hunger. The [illegible] in Cat always [illegible]

[illegible] must raise enough to [illegible] a mule or [illegible]
he[illegible] cant raise corn or [illegible]

Mr Coy advises me of the receipt of a letter from you which is doubtless true, I think you wrote me in [illegible]

If you will be so kind as to name or [illegible] the cause of [illegible] you will confer [illegible] favor. [illegible] I am [illegible]

I am writing to Mr Lenthall [illegible] I suppose you are not so [illegible]

Kindest remembrance [illegible]

[illegible]

6 Retiro March 27th 1866

Dear Dr.

Pray beg of Brewer for me some of his card photographs of the "Big Tree". I want them so much & he can so easily replace them in a short time. He surely will not be so ungrateful as to refuse them to you. I brought a small stereoscope and a few miscellaneous pictures which have created a genuine furor here. They are better than any recommendation from Capt. General or Royal Authority. The doors (when there are any) fly wide open almost spontaneously to admit the "pan de orama". My desire for these things is no vain one. They tend to clear away my prejudices and make me welcome where it could not well go were it not for the hospitality of people now very poor more so than usual in account of the storm in October and the subsequent severe drought. You would send me the things by express. It will be costly but I doubt if it will not be profitable in the end. Satisfy Brewer one way with plants till he sings out enough & give him ten times the value in money if they can be got in no other way.

I have been examining fl. of Leucidaceæ. Mr. Grisebach says the "keel is furnished with an appendage which is folded back between the lobes" or to this effect. Here are some errors so far as regards the sp. examined. First: only in the bud is the appendage properly folded backwards Secondly: it is folded back laterally not between the lobes. Thirdly: There are no lobes. not a shadow of them. The upper edge of the plane basal part of the keel passes, abruptly, indeed, but without a trace of an incision into the crimped terminal portion. I find the lateral petals sometimes (commonly) seven minute sometimes one, more or less, even well, developed — equal to the upper ones. In one fl. I found this petal well developed with in the keel in the full grown bud — and I examined not

[illegible] flowers
it rather over the top but more to one side - the left [illegible] if you stand in front of the flower & look down into it

About a year ago you put in hand a letter of Gottsche to Sullivant If I am not much mistaken that letter gave reason to look for some publication of my Cuban Hepatics before much time should pass away. A year has passed & within that period not one little word about either Hepatics or mosses. If any body Thinks this is very cheering or encouraging I beg to entertain a different opinion Can't you poke up Sullivant with a sharp stick

I am sorry to say that I have yet seen nothing for Bear in the way of palm seeds but I mean to find time for it yet. The directions for sending things having just attracted my attention induces me to ask what change in address, if any, will be necessary now that the former director is dead

Returning again to Lecuridaca & Phlebodæ I noticed a disagreement between Gyrsback & Baill. & Hook. This led me to examine the former anew. If I understand anything of the structure these last are surely in error. The minute petals are between the keel and the pair which they call "lateralia" and "concavo-galeata" and beneath the "stipula maxima &c" and these in the Gen. Char. they call "intima" Please give me your opinion You can use the inclosed notes as you please sending them to Gyr or to Hook. if you think as I do that they will clear up errors & throw light on obscure points

Bancrofts eulogy of Mr. Lincoln has stirred up British bile. Can you send it to me when you have occasion to send something else by ships letter bag. Now don't get "cussin" mad at all my wants & begging It may be quite convenient for you to do so or at least may not give you much trouble & if you dont send it at all I shant grow worthy about it. One Livingston, an American in England has condemned severely the oration of Mr Bancroft and the audience who heard & did not condemn it. For this if for no other motive I would like to read it.

We are having some showers of late

Regards to Mrs G

Yours ever Charles Wright

P.S. 30th. Another batch of letters but nothing yet from Gyrsback. Will it not be well to write him to send through you? parcels can reach Bost. in a month or more sooner than they can Cuba. Never mind the expense. If you had better too direct letters & packs to J. M. Arce & Co. Habana instead of sending to the firm & the same name in Santander. It will save time and money and so far as conveys parcels if sent by sailing vessel you will have more frequent opportunities whether from Boston or New York

Dear Brewer
Can you do anything in the
of this morning affair.
Bartlett is ready for us, if
any Meat!

Asa Gray

P.S.

Cambridge

Mass.

U.S. STEAMSHIP
APR
10

Retin- ii p 33 1806

Dear Sir

Collins came & packages and all the time I was unpacking the parcel Cat. Pl. Sib. p. 121–176. What has become of the intermediate ones? Mr Kay with me not long ago & I cant find the letter which I thought I had put in its order in my letter book that he had received a parcel from you containing Bulbs & Hook. &c but has not written me lately of any arrival from Canada

I see he has not incorporated the plants of last summer in Spring valley, a number appearing to be new. Have they distributed mine of the last ~~winter~~

Mr. Lambert's [illegible] Pandora calophylla, or was he ever to see them concealed among his cases? that he was pleased with their [illegible]

Chione lucida Gr. (C. Caroliniana, of descr.) why dont he restore Richards name? Richard

Menziesia [illegible] found in N. a little beyond Lewis river at 5 or 6 thousand feet high. I pulled up a root & brought the whole to flower in Britain to cultivate.

Pursh And this reminds me that I have written to Prof Baird asking him to get for me the seeds of Pursh's Virginia. He could also gratefully receive any trees or shrubs from the Southern States which would be likely to thrive here — Magnolia, pines, the Laurels, oaks, Calycanthus, Alicia &c &c. Annuals he cares little about though he has a few. Prof. Baird has answered promising to consult the botanists, and gives us reason to believe that in the Spring he will send us something. Friend Blair well deserves from the lovers of science botanists as well as Geologists some token of gratitude. Could you to something for him elsewhere with Pr. B. to make up a creditable parcel.

I returned [illegible] three days — brought back a new implement, I return it, a small tree with erect close pressed branches forming a slender shadow — no great thing

besides. I am collecting insects in some considerable quantity
and I notice find a few shells now & then. I swapped horses & have
now a young and not very trusty little mare for pack-animal
but shall soon trade her off for a better

Among your Cretan you should have a specimen with leaves only
about 2 leaves branched from the pseudo-bulb with inf.ce 2 or 3 fl.
It is an Ophrys. How many times I have had a horrid chagrin to
collect flowers of this bush-in vain. I have now plenty of fl.
of one of the palms growing at Babiton & should send to you
last year.

In my last I wrote rather bitterly about Grisebach. Perhaps
I was wrong. I hope so. But yet he might to have been quite as
mindful of me as to send me his preface or Englishes Ve
& any thing which would help me along. From the arrival
of the third parcel of Lit. T. Bul. (if not from you) I infer
confidently that he sent the second which is delayed or
lost. If he has not only let me the least [illegible] a little
as to that my remarks, corrections, criticisms &c were not
[illegible]. I would continue them & write to him directly

Jerusalem 8th. Night before last came yours of 24th ult with Grisebach's
determination of coll. of 1865 & letter (to you) also letter of Hampton. Yesterday
I came here and now I am going to say a word or two in reply

I am much obliged to you for your answers to my queries
It removes doubts & weakens very much the faith I had in
Grisebach

It is now too late to be of any use to him yet I will send
a list of my principal botanical stations for according to
his letter the printing was to be finished and the job concluded
before the end of last month. Be thanks you for calling my attention
to this subject. I don't remember that you ever did — may be
I was in that last letter — at any rate not since last August
Now if he had just written me a line on this subject in return
for my friendly offers to communicate vulgar names or any other
information he might desire would have been all right & he
would now be in possession of the information he sought

In my last I made some observations on the pelleted lines &
dots of Cyprus. Today I have examined two species more
& must be, I think, that there is no absorbent tissue. Neither of
them when fresh have the pellucid lines [illegible] in water
or even till white dots. Will see how they look when dry

Having examined in Jerusalem I have today examined
another. This has the appendage of the heel very small pointed backward
(in the bud) & to the left side. As in the other there is no indentation
between the plane basal part and the small slightly wrinkled tip
so that the heel is not bilobed. The appendage being so small
it can hardly be any of the first three species in the Fl. Br. Ind.
if this character is of any value

Grisebach does not report on the yellow-flowered Vanilla which
I got last summer and which made me back my shins
shinning up the palms of which I wrote you

Send him a flower of Candia calospyta but tell him
to look among the leaves of his own specimen

I hoped to find a good many things to collect here
but the little ramble I have taken today does not encourage
me much. Some time ago (two months or more) there were here
abundant rains while none of consequence has fallen on the
other side of the mountain since last October. The
mountains it has rained also and I find a good deal to
gather but they are poor species mostly. When there are
rare. In crossing the mountains I got over two lots
of my Symplocos ovalis with young fruit but I could
see no flowers

Yours truly
Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Toscaw Sep 14 & 1866

Dear Dr.

In Grisebach's list of 1865 collection No 360. Bellaria spinosa Rich Strange that tho' I have Richard's figure stereotyped on the brain, I have never been able to recognise the plant. Do compare your specimen with Rich's figure and tell me your opinion (and what is Grisebach's last say) about the matter. If you have his account of it I forgot.

I am picking up flaws in his Cat. I find under Pavonia subpandurata "corolla sicca rosea" & under P. cordifolia, "petalis (sicca rosea - -)" and under P. megalophylla "petalis rubris". Now as well as I remember I haven't seen a purple-flowered Pavonia in Cuba, (P. palaniviodes perhaps excepted) How comes it then that Gris describes the color of the flowers from the dried specimens & not from the labels? Did Dr. Gray pocket the labels & leave Gris. to describe by guess? Now this is not treating me right. My reputation for accuracy is at stake. I wish you to do me the justice to examine into this. I don't ask it as a favor as I do many other things. Grisebach seems to quote much oftener Ruge's special habitats than he does mine as if he had not the tickets containing himself with "Cuba" or "Cub. or." only; and these often wrongly, but (I don't allude to the earlier numbers of which the tickets were lost.

I can't account for the mania of being over-particular. After locating friend Blain in Habana when he goes as seldom as possible (once in two years maybe) he has seen but Dr. Morales there also If it had been content to say "botanici cubenses" it would have been amply sufficient and all right. I must say these blunders annoy me for the people here will probably attribute them to my carelessness. (under Sabicea Moralesii)

When you get a complete copy (surplus) of the "cat. pl. Cub." won't you have it bound, interleaved, for me & send it when you have anything else so as to make up a package

I am sorry that Grisebach does not give the derivation of his new generic names. It would be convenient to such as I who doesn't carry a Greek Lexicon in his cubera. It sometimes helps a fellow out of an uncertainty

I write you once that I had made out a list of all the numbers and in a column headed "Lanvalli" I have checked off all the numbers he has received. Mr Clay promised me his numbers & shall probably get them also from Mr Brown & Mr Faber. By this means we will be able to distribute them only such plants as they have not already received. I would be glad to get a similar list from all the other subscribers so as to give them no more duplicates and no cause for grumbling. Is the scheme practicable to any extent? And can you help to accomplish it?

1902. I am growing wrathy and as I can not blow up Grisebach lookout, you, for squalls. I was at San Marcos yesterday and got Cacalia discolor Gr. Why in the name of common sense does he trust to Don, Dick, & Harry whose testimony as to the color of flowers came through Bill, Ted, & Guss, culminating in Richard in whom he seems to have the blindest of blind faith - instead of allowing my trustworthy notes (generally) I am satisfied that my ticket, if you sent it) had on it "fl. white" as they are. Such blunders ruin me. I wish he had quoted my special habitats as he does Regels. There are two errors in the character of the above plant - leaves (3"-4" longis, 8"-10" latis) & "squamis-spice". In San Marcos I got also Rhodia fruticosa fl. & and a Pisonia new to my collections. I had often before seen the bush & wondered what it could be but I was always too late for in common with the other several of the Pisonia species it flowers almost contemporaneously with the appearance of the leaves & the fr. maturing rapidly all appearance of fructification soon disappears. I got also a good supply of Euphorbia cyanogala from the only plant yet known to me. Also some Plumieria sericifolia and various Myrtaceae. Reynosia retusa. plenty of fl. Lachnia iricephala. Psidendrum radicipagum - a capital name, if it means "that you cant pull up the plant by the stem" or that the roots break off very easily.

Thalassia." Mr ——— (I unknown) "No sirree. I knows 'em. That is, unless I am woefully deceived. But the character given in Gris. is horrid. The fl. are not on a spadix as I understand it no more than a lily is unless that the fl. being within a rigid spathe the pedunicle below it is necessarily a spadix. However, that dont matter. The leaves are not ensiate as we understand it on land. Imagine a plant with equitant leaves flattened in just the contrary direction and (the edges of each cap are doubled, round the next within it,) you will have a pretty good idea how the plant is. The o are 2-3 not "central" as described by Gris. but lateral. The ♀ I have examined but slightly just wishing to destroy them unnecessarily & not knowing how many I had. But I discovered this much that it has 14 linear stigmas (or styles)? And but few 4-5? ovules. Will you have it figured? I will pay for it. I got also what may be a Najas - found plenty of fl. but no ♀. Anthers 2 on a consolidated filament one next the axis lower down & shorter the opposite extending beyond the connective & deeply notched. Both sagittate-lanceolate. It isnt N. major for the leaves are narrowly linear and quite entire. Stamens at length exserted one inch long or more.

Please do me the favor to look at the above-named species of Pavonia and Cacalia discolor to be sure that you did not keep the tickets for I dont want to give Grisebach a blessing unless he merits it as I fed much in the humor, just now, to do.

In San Marcos I got a quantity of the bark from a Harjasseria? or whatever it may turn out to be. I suppose you can determin from the locality or in some way having Grisebach's determination of the family. You see it resembles very closely the bark of Cagitta & of Tinvadendron (Lost two knives & a pencil - carved out in the pine wood).

O! dear I do miss so much those missing sheets. They contain two the families I so want to study where so many of the pussies are Euphorbs. Legum. Myrt. Melastom. Loranth. &c.

Inclosed are a couple of scraps for Gris. I hope you dont throw these notes into the basket under the table

2nd Of the little plant supposed to be Najas I have two ♂ and it

is not Naja. t is Juncr.). It has two rows one sessile the other on a short stalk
each with a long filiform style. The seed is oval dark green with the remains of the
style about the middle of one side. What is it?

Basta for this time. Kind regards to Mrs Gray — and to Asa

Yours ever Charles Wright

Received Oct. 27th 1865

Dear D.

I am doing - and nothing better to do than to growl. So here goes! Did you look at Mr. Bentham's observations under Pinillonia (gen. char.) last leaves "Tongue ovate &c." If I cannot only get the title I used to know he has not been followed the bent of his judgment (indeed) but just the reverse. What he meant to say I am hardly guess. In the list of 1865 I see I got a new? Tetranthus. So that neither is Pinillonia "reduced" to Tetranthus nor the latter to the former.

Since my last letter was despatched I have been paddling extensively in the "big pond." I have fished a week for Schistacheæ and perhaps will accumulate something worth sending to Mr. Harvey though I can't say that I take to Algæ. I have collected of the two species mentioned in my last more specimens - of the Nayas-like thing in abundance & I. & II. ripe seed - of the other I have not yet received seed.

If you get a complete copy of the Catalogues (second edition) buy, beg, borrow or steal it - anyhow get it. Even if it is not in my herb. (or Turner-Bynoe. Bron.) is connected with the "Ambos Mundos" and barrels can be sent by every Steamer. Give me notice by letter a little in advance if possible. The expense is not very great & I will willingly pay it to have the book.

At last I have received Mueller's account of the Compositæ. The specific name for the "echini" are soft & plumose just like the hairs of the receptacle in Cirsium. The leaves, however, vary in breadth from linear to Thistle. I begin to suspect that it is a true Cirsium in the sense of the original author. Mueller's notion I once noticed in a meeting of botanists in one of his country rides - Cotyledons - to be divided in middle from the D

May I not get yours of the 17th ult. Thanks for the articles in the Athenæum - but the [illegible] would be a great [illegible]

[illegible] aid would be more useful to, whatever you may [illegible]. I am now I dare say collecting specimens [illegible] will leave in the wood just because I don't know what I have already & what not. I have never seen a description (genuine) of Leucocoelia. The other day I found [illegible] to be but young, [illegible] pressed as the former specimens I fear were injured [illegible] Tules adding to the paper. I shall go soon & see if I can get some more Gaussia. There is, close to Las Vegas, a palm (fabelliformis) [illegible] shoot up inflorescence. It won't be ripe yet I fear but I'll then take the leaves & try it & look for fl. at some other time. It yields a fine strong fibre.

I am waiting with the greatest impatience the arrival of the schooner from Habana trusting it will bring me the books you sent long ago. It was expected some days ago.

Thanks in Don Jose's name for the seed of the cachows which I shall send him (I am a little doubtful whether I have stumbled on the right name)

It is rather odd that Lanicellia has not been found in the Brit. [illegible]. It [illegible] to have [illegible] to [illegible] It is common enough here.

I don't learn that notwithstanding my earnest request & the [illegible] slip of Mr Bay & other how that Mr Gosse had sent them the Cat. Pl. Cub. Does it he mean to do it? I don't know what I'm to do if I don't get the backing sheets.

Mr Marnitz writes in pencil on your envelope & underscores strongly "pr. C. Wright". The "Mr" might be taken for an M & queries "per Brig C. Wright? i who? Your "for" might be taken for per. per with the e elided "ought to be written plainer."

I advise you not to send photographs by mail. A letter of my brother which came with yours cost me 25 cents new entrance fee for it didn't go to the post office. They might suspect there was something in it worth looking at. I doubt if I ever get them sent by mail

2. Grisebachs list of 1865 coll. is a Leucothrix microphylla. Did you refer onto my label with the name L. ramosissima? Look & see. But I suppose it is already published & will do no good

Regard to Mrs. G. & the Clarences

Yours truly

Chas. Wright

P.S. I meant to enclose some bits of Thalassia but haven't now time

I enclose a line for my sister for economy's sake. Please forward

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

N.Y. STEAMSHIP
MAY
MS
10

Cosmos Mayfield Pike

Dear Pa,

portion for the one in the

I have

The other is in the

(terminated by a

12th it

I got an Amphiate

(then I was sure some fruit of yours a different thing mixed up
the Grevillea specimen. Pray complain when you have time for
the sake of accuracy. I don't remember any fr. of those little Cactus
and I think Thick to can not thin as an inch. So well as I remember they
are all nearly linear. Opuntia shows no signs of flowering. a friend
brought me some specimens of a Clidemia quite new to me and
a pl[illegible]
r with leaves [illegible]. Now however I can hardly doubt that I
[illegible]
which has a neuter look

Phoradendron is said to be dioecious and Arceuthobium hexpleis. I have now
a monoecious Phoradendron or a lucky Arceuthobium. "Tak yer choice yowie pick yaw
way". Afterwards I found a Loranth. apparently truly dioecious on a host [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] which were named dioecious, as were male)
19th (and never I have a new [illegible] Phoradendron [illegible] I
am there (as well as I can judge) The two genera will get tangled up if some-
[illegible] don't look out for'em.

Friend Blain wrote me the other day that Sauvalle had sent to him (Blain) the
parcel of books for me & which I have been looking for so very eagerly. He
had an opportunity to remit them to me. He wish me also that he had collected
[illegible] the botanical specimens for the two of the handsome red wood. Before then
[illegible]. Now if [illegible] we will have almost all of it.
But [illegible] parcel [illegible] it safe & then it will be very
[illegible]

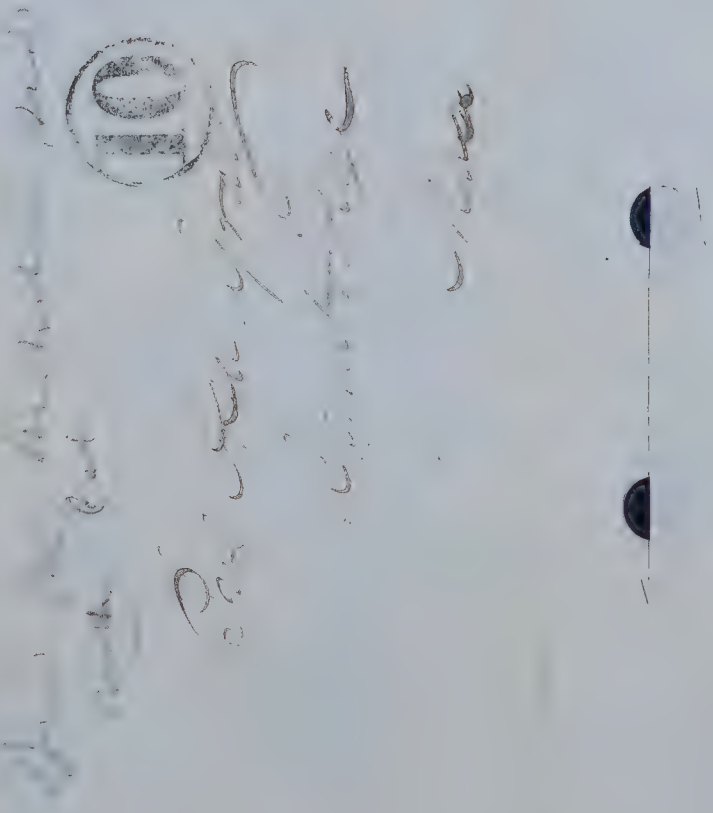
On [illegible] occasions I have collected here for a bird & a plant which
[illegible] Pentagonia (Rubiaceae) Now I have fl. expanded from the same
[illegible]

25th Just got [illegible] of the 9th
paper (various answers & questions)
unfortunately just the kind I don't want for I always a primary
ley ones with me. It is moreover conveyance [illegible]
passage & costs one 37½ cents. (+10 cts forwarded here
and forwarded 5 cts more (single letter)
one enclosing answers & things. Ley etc. Hence I advise you
these things by express. [illegible] you say
[illegible] book of [illegible] now
a letter for me to the [illegible]. By the way
[illegible] I shall get them soon if not
[illegible]. You send the Australian seeds to the new [illegible] unless very
much wanted elsewhere. Friend Blain
[illegible] ups. I own up to [illegible]

I am working not very contentedly for Mr Irwin now
hunt up for [illegible] Spinifex Rich & work re
"En Las Pozas hay muchissimo" — but of all that great quan-
tity I have not been able to find a twig. Blain knows the two species
well and I trust a good deal

May conscience rather smite me for bothering you about
affairs even when it is really a common affair while you
[illegible]
letter I have returned again to Nejas, Thalassia & their brethren
[illegible] I told you that (for Gris) the
Thalassia was unknown till now & have made a grand
discovery and you can now "don't know at all what" it is all
about." The pith of the matter is I have been paddling in the Big
Pond & have made the acquaintance of three of its divinities but
two of 'em I don't know the names & its a curious task to ask 'em
for I don't know their lingo i.e. me fabrum libros vel libri
desunt. Viel I want books.

When you send anything to Blain the best way will be to send
it through Sauvalle (F. C.) Calle (Street) de San Ysidro no 37
Fleas by the hundred. It rained the other day & they all assembled



P.S. Mr. Marvitz asks me to have letters for him sent to my address

Retiro June 2nd 1866

Dear Dr.

Yesterday 2 left Cosaro at 3 P.M. and arrived here about sunset. I found some notes from Mon Grisebach (26 Dec) & Curtis (26 Jan) which came with the Gen. Plants & the Contributions &c but not the photographs. And Mr. Marnitz writes me "We put no letters into the Post Office when directed to our care": so apparently it remained in New York or somewhere else. An evening shower overtook me in Ballestena where I found shelter & dinner. Found Don Jose well Among his trees & shrubbery as usual. Seed of Cinchona officinalis has not germinated but he is rejoicing over a young teak-tree about as big as a piece of — your finger nail. Mangos in abundance

Don Jose has given me flowers of Columbina acuminata & I collected pretty well-grown fruit so we have the full materials for a good description

I am glad Mr. Curtis sees a promise of good things in the Bunji

I left a good ~~bale~~ box of dry plants in Cosaro whence it can be sent to Habana at any time by giving the mayoral instructions So whenever it may be convenient to send all my collection from here I will have that also sent on to add to the very respectable accumulations which I have made here

Now dont you go to following the example of your gardener and go crazy over your many labors - students, lectures, garden, Am. Ac. &c &c. and if I growl, you growl back but not so strongly as to injure your tracheæ for then you could only allow a growl without affecting anything

I return the list of 1865. I forgot it before and the enclosed if you please may have the benefit & pleasure of a third passage across the Big Pond. I am much obliged for Grisebachs very little lesson on the Latin Genitive case tho' I knew all that some years ago

I am in first rate health after my paddling in Neptune's bathing tub notwithstanding my exhibits with the muskitoes and fleas. And oh! mila gros!! the number of these is inconceivable on any theory. It needs experience to convince one of the reality. After the first rain they came. They are hydrophobiads (pardon a new coin). But I dont know why they all came to my house. nor why being notoriously friends or seekers of darkness when they alighted near a door if transversi to the light they wriggled about till head towards the door. Not a few of them crossed the mountains with me and now & then one dies of Fricturation. At first they were dear pale cadaverous little beasts and their bite was little painful but they gained in size in fatness and in venom. Dont you want to swap troubles? However here are not many of these little tormenting critturs.

Kind regards to Mrs G. & my friend down town for me

Yours ever Charles Wright

P.S. In your memo. of May 9th you say "You just write out the corrections you wish made & we will print them in bill. Jour." Now how am I going to write out these corrections while I have not a fifth part of the whole bat. & dont know what corrections he himself has made? You'll have to wait on me a little perhaps longer than you would like.

And your former notice or notices of Darwin's book on twining plants if sent have not reached me. Wont you remember it next time you send

Mr. Paine assures it (Pistole assures) Adjutant Gen. in the land
est troops (certain of the Islands in which (Cleveland?) the most
mutinous & ill. Note first note arrangement of the month
Sent Adams? Dont know yet if getting money

Pay. Ass. Gen.
Cambridge
Mass.

10

P.
ne
P. J.

Retiro June 15th 1866

Dear Dr.

At the risk of fatiguing you I must give you an account of an extraordinary orchid — a real phenomenon. but as you will only have to read & not answer here goes. I have written to you & doubtless also spoken of a little orchid which Don Jose has several times met with in the savanas but which for want of time to collect, or from his own subsequent carelessness or that of servants was not secured has been lost after being saved. He found it first by his nose — "un olor magnifico"

I went to Rangel on the 8th. He went to San Cristobal on the 10th & both going & returning he found again the little orchid "por millares de millares". I returned here on the 11th and the next day I went to get more of the plant (he had brought me about a dozen — not half so many as my curiosity excited by repeated failures in searching for it made me desire to have) Strange to tell not a single flower could I find & but one fr. An intelligent mulatto boy who was with him when he found it in such abundance and who describes it as in "manchones" — great patches — accompanied me that there might be no mistake in the locality. Yesterday I went again and spent half an hour or so in digging the ground but again without finding a single flower. Now what do you say? Sent it meteoric — a fungus? Well last year about this date I was in the savanas near the great Cienaga de Paparita & there I found a single flower of a little orchid which I believe is the same thing — and afterwards a few fruiting plants The soil & all favors the belief. It is a pogonia looking thing but & remember that for something in the pollinaria (eg. described in Grisebach) I could not put it in that genus. Another curious circumstance is that of 10-15 plants which friend Blanco brought and planted in a box a considerable portion remained visible 2 or 3 days & two are still so: one giving promise of ripening its fruit

The scrap of a letter from Curtis which you sent me gave me a little stimulus. So when in Rangel I went into the Jungle somewhat & also chipped off from palms a good many lichens—a difficult operation as the crust is very brittle and can hardly be cut off except in very large thick slabs or in very minute bits. Those secular palms of the dense mountain woods are covered with a rich & varied growth of lichens. I also got one ripe blackberry from the Cuban Rubus but it is small, though I ventured to taste a single carpel. There were not very many which I thought palatable

Mr. Marnock writes me that letters directed to their house. that is, "J. M. Morales & Co" are charged no entrance postage. Now this is an important item. So please write on fine paper (for your sake as well as mine) & large enough to fold so as not to need an envelope for the letter itself, and direct the envelope simply to the house. This will save me 12½ cts every letter. The postage from the city inland is only 5 cts

We are in the flush of the mango harvest & Don José has the very best and in abundance. If I could only send you a few dozen that you might get foundered on them as I am almost. But then is no use in wishing for what is next to impossible. You I suppose are about in the season of strawberries which are better than Mangos

No news yet of the Stereographs. I doubt ever they left the U. States 1862. I however made much of a letter this time but as I am going to the village. I'll finish it & send it away.

We have had some days of lowery showery weather but it seems now to have changed

Please dispatch the two letters inclosed. You have at liberty to read the one to Lyrichord if you have time & inclination — and the other too for that matter.

Kind regards to Mrs Gray & the Clarences from

Yours truly, Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

N.Y. STEAMSHIP
JUN
27
10

Retire July 4th 1866

Dear Dr

Just a year ago you wrote "89th anniversary of the United States": a spectator in the moon of sufficient power might perhaps question the correctness of the observation. If that South Carolinian had given the noble Summer a little harder lick & some rebel had made daylight shine through Mr Johnson's friend Stevens we might hope to see soon the realization of the remark. But Fort Lafayette isn't open for northern disunionists "Strange then should such a difference be 'Twixt tweedledum & tweedledee" Hudibras

Yesterday's mail of June 22nd I shall bear in mind your petition in behalf of Reichenbach & reflect seriously upon your advice about Flora Cubana & continue collecting with a view to the accomplishment of your suggestion. Marnitz writes me that Gay has two pamphlets for me — 4th & 5th parts of Catalogue? Strange that he has not written me in a long time

Sorry to hear of Hawey's death. You must look up some other Algologist

About the direction of letters I expect I was precipitate & learned ~~for~~ aiming at brevity. What Mr Marnitz wrote me was "We put no letters into the P.O when directed to our care" & ~~it~~ he refers to letters going out of the island. What I wrote "so it apparently remained in N. York or somewhere else" refers to the parcel of photographs. For Mr. M. writes again that none have come for me & if my name has been anywhere visible he would doubtless have observed it, especially as the parcel was of unusual size & shape. and as I have lost nothing so far as I now know since he took charge of my correspondence I have much confidence in his carefulness. I can't say if M. & Co like or dislike to have letters sent to their care. I fancy that it is a matter of indifference I will ask Marnitz. At all

events mine come from there thro' the P.O.

"I am glad you are so well and hearty" wasn't quite so applicable when you wrote it as it would have been two days earlier. The 20th I got a ridiculous little fall from a tree but the ground gave me a wicked blow. I am getting better but am only half a hand. I had cut down a little tree to get Hippocrates malpighiphlia. It hung by the vines though nearly horizontal but the ground being inclined the top was still pretty high. Just here I came down from the tree on which I had climbed to bring it down by my weight I hardly know. When I recovered my knocked-out seven senses I found myself all doubled up in a heap head downward. After straightening out & grunting a good deal I found that my chest had got an awful squeeze and my right shoulder a solid blow. My head escaped without a scratch or a bump. I am gaining though my arm has not yet much strength and a sudden twist or jolt reminds me that my back suffered in the fight

How do you get news from England in 7 days.— Harvey's death? June 7th (June 15th) May 15th?

Regards to Mrs G. & the Clarences, from

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Dr. Gray

Retiro 23d July 1865

Dear Dr

I believe I sent you a little commelynaceous plant in considerable quantity which Gris. has not reported on certainly. With the look of Commelyna it has the fl. of Tradescantia in the heart of the former. pilose filaments (6) anthers ½-¾ inch transverse oblong linear ovary 2-celled cells 2-ovulate. Leaves small ovate oblique at base lip-pubescent above and beneath sheath long villous sepals white. pet. ovate and ovary & pistil stam. white. not common but seen abundantly in two localities. Brought some & it is now growing here so that I have fresh flowers to examine

And now I beg you will enlighten me on a char. of Bromeliaceæ. During all the years I have been studying botany the terms accumbent & incumbent as applied to the embryo of dicotyledons have got through my wool. I look in the book and see the little diagram ⊃ which is accumbent and the other ⊐ which is incumbent & close the book and an hour afterward I dont know which is which. Now Grisebach has introduced one of those abominations into Bromeliaceæ and gives us "anthers erect" & "anthers incumbent" I have not the slightest idea what this last can mean Please do me a kindness by explaining it — In a late excursion towards the coast I got a new Nymphæa, a new Spigelia & a new Ruellia & I believe a new Ipomœa besides collecting a good many things which I cant make out. I am pretty sure I have Bastelezkya pentasperma At all events it agrees in every particular with the description

There is a huge grass here comparable in size & appearance to sugar-cane (panicle 3-4 ft long) I dont know the fl. Is it Reimaria acuta Fl? I have been examining Rondeletia? tinifolia, Gr. The fl. has not the callous ring in the throat. Caps septicide & half-loculicide. Ought not Ferdinandea to be merged in Rondeletia or form a section of it?

Friend Blain in his studies of the Sphingidæ makes some good observations. Thus the tobacco-worm lives indirectly on tobacco, tomato, capsicum Potato, & tuna, Another Sphinx lives on Rue & on the orange. Another lives on Vitex & on Sesamum. Is this a hint? "Consider the butterflies how they live." Sesamum has been heard about a good deal. May not the insects have a voice in deciding where it belongs. We're having a spell of weather I can't dry my

papers as fast as I would not get into the hills comfortably. Don Jose has a plant of Catasetum tridentatum? I with five well opened flowers. The sensitiveness of the antenna is not observable. I name it doubtfully as it has not the edge of the labellum dentated agreeing exactly with the fig. in Darwin in all other respects except perhaps in the tip of the anther being shorter & more curved — In these last days I have saved two new sp. of Epidendrum unless one be as is probable enough E. rigida Rich.

25th Today about midday two of the fl. of Catasetum discharged their pollinia with force on being tickled.

Here's a little Rhynchospora which I cant make out. It is strange if my previous collections do not contain it as it abounds in certain peculiar spots here just under my nose. Please compare with your specimens & tell me if you have it.

27th Yesterday I went where the mayoral of Balsteena is cutting down the woods on the top of the mountain back of the house. I got a new species of Gabatia? — I guess from its resemblance to the others — (I have no gen. char. of the genus) & a ban new Acrocentrum growing on Rhododendron leopardichum & this on Alchornea & on a Daphne. Lately I have saved fl. of Eucrossorhis arbuscula (Wall. Cat. Pl. Cub.) & tomorrow si Dios quiere I'll see if the trees have produced any more. I got plenty of Miconia Rhynchina. It is the largest Melastom. I know — a small tree.

28th The Eucrossorhis has not produced any more fl. — Mr. Lay is gone to New York. I hope you'll hear from him if not sooner. It will be a good chance to send me any thing you may have for me. I sent him an introductory note to Dr. Torrey. I found another lovely new tree of Pagamea? gracilis Gr. but without fl. or fr. When does it blossom?

Send regards to Mrs G. & the Clarences when you meet them as well as other Cambridge friends & Bostonians from

Yours truly Charles Wright

Retiro Aug. 8th 1866

Dear Dr.

I fear I am in a scrape. About three weeks ago writing to Mr. Sauvalle I copied from your letter of 22nd June the principal part of your suggestion to me relative to the Flora Cubana putting them in quotation marks. This I thought was in accordance with your counsel "Tell your friends it must be done". Well can you believe it? Mr S. has gracefully slipped himself inside of all that & thinks it fits him like a brand new suit just as if written by you to himself. He answers that nothing would please him better than to have his name connected with such a work but fears it is above his abilities yet thinks it can be brought about perhaps with my help & that of Dr. Sloanes concluding thus "Consequently if you join me I will "go in for it"" the last four words copied from your letter. Is the good man weak in the upper story? He says he is so much better in health that he is able to do as much work as anybody

Can't you drop him a line finding some excuse about the agency for the sale of the Catalogue or some way in which you can tell him the advice you have given me but that doubtless I will be glad to receive and I counsel from him & Dr Sloanes "re de making the undeception as gentle as possible? Direct to F. A. Sauvalle Calle de San Ysidro no. 37 Habana He expects to come down here soon when we will talk over the matter. Perhaps I may not see him before your letter can reach him

Day before yesterday I came back again from a two days excursion towards the coast. I have now four Nymphaeas having added N. Rudgeana. I found a new Chiococa (Bermudiana) — a little bush three to eight. I dissected carefully one of the corollas which I remembered had the inner segments of the perianth very peculiarly bent in a sigmoid manner (Fig. 3, 3a) edgewise. Among grasses & Cyperaceae I found the two

and Spineback quite insufficient. I am doubtless discovering novelties. I collected [illegible] is a Physalis quite new to me— the bladder being 10-ribbed— all others I have seen 5 all enumerated in Spinebacks Flora having only five. It is a weedy-looking thing like the rest— smooth angulate with purple patches at the forks of the stem & branches with dark spots in the throat Leaves small. Fl. yellow. Antlers visit it

Will it not be well to send to Prof. Baird a copy of the Catalogue (marked (with a pen) as best) to be presented to the Queen & Ministers in my name with the request that I may have some privileges in the island? I know not what to ask that at all it will depend on the will of the Government who is entrusted with more unlimited power than the queen of Spain herself. It may after all be easier to get in by force than Swim but it may be well enough to try. I have been a little out of sorts but am better Memorias á la Señora

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Aug 28

Retiro Aug 14 in 1866

Dear Dr

I have been making lately short excursions of two or three days at a time into the palm & pine savanas (so they call them here) toward the coast. I have already written you something of them. Yesterday I returned from one & brought back what appears a new Rheedia - fr. much like a lime and almost as large. I got a Rottboellia & a Digitaria and a paspalum & a Rhynchospora and a Festuca? &c. &c. which I cant make out. I have now dry & drying three Nymphaeas N. ampla. N. Rudgeana. & another night flowering one a more delicate plant than the others or than the number as given by Grisebach is doubtful. I find a little Portulaca in these savanas with white or very pale flowers as often 4 as 5-petaled & small black muricalate seed. I dont believe it is any variety P. pilosa. The Vitaceæ need straightening up. Vondr. V. tripartita at least two sp. are confounded - V. scandens. But one has the young fr. of a dark livid color & studded with tubercles and larger leaves. These must also be separated from. V. cinerea (young fr. smooth), a sp. with small leaves (of which I have sent specimens) and young fr. like the above described - leaves much smaller than in the true (leaves 3-foliolate) V. sicyoides. Then there is another quite distinct species, this I think Grisebach ought to have had from me perhaps V. alata Lam. with the inflorescence yellow - stem strongly angled if not winged. I got a Pectis to which dont fit any enumerated in Grs. By the way I am making capital specimens of these tumble-to-pieces plants by confining them beneath my thin black boards made in the sun A good many specimens of several species laid together quite as well as ordinary plants

16th Please tell me what enclosed scrap is Phyllanthus ? inopus Poepp. A dull rainy day. I would go to Balsoma if it were pleasant and carry there the bundles of dry plants I have here to get them out of my way & to incorporate with those I have there. I am out of paper

Sainville has sent me some as far as Artemisia Spence it is carried in a can & may have to wait some days for an opportunity Or it may now be in the boxes. For some days we have had no papers. At last I got a letter from home — Mamma says "No letters lost through my neglect — never!" Hope you'll send along the "Cat. Pl. Cult." soon. I want it badly for Myrt. Melastom. Leg. Pap. Ve I have two Artemisias which agree with no descriptions I have

Yours ever
Chas Wright

Aug. 1877 - Collected in the Pass of Guadalupe Mts. in Texas

Aug. 1876 - Collected in the Mts. of New Mexico

Aug. 1875 - Collected in the Mts. of Arizona

Aug. 1849 - Collected in the Mts. of Texas

Yours of Aug 8 just come
C.W.

Retiro Aug 20 th. 1866

Dr. Asa Gray M.D

My Dear Dr

I'm not well, and I want now your medical advice. For a number of years past I have been somewhat troubled with piles — in fact ever since my voyage of circumnavigation if not before. But not until lately have they given me any real alarm. I have always been convinced that the disease was not only troublesome offensive & annoying but that it might grow to be very much so if not dangerous to life to say nothing of the general health. In years past it only visited me at intervals of short duration Now it is an almost constant companion. I fancy — am almost sure indeed that as yet the flow of blood is only from enlarged veins of the rectum — veins the walls of which from the very enlargement have become so thin that they can not resist the pressure

Now the question is what shall I do? I ought to seek not only relief but a cure if possible. This I have thought might be effected by tying up these enlarged veins & turning the blood into other & firmer channels. I would thus be relieved perhaps cured radically. These swollen veins produce "prolapsus ani" or something like it causing a constant uneasiness and a constant effort of the will to keep the parts in their proper place. which is the office of the sphincter in a healthy state of the system. I might also observe that I never suffer any pain & most part the flow of blood is imperceptible to any sense but that of sight — hardly so to the touch

I have thought so seriously of this matter for a few days past that I have almost come to the determination to run home for a few weeks if not for the whole winter. I have now become so interested in the subject of the Cuban flora that I very much dislike to leave it But health is of more importance than the accomplishment of any scientific work. If I spend the winter in the north I might perhaps write out a good part of it except what relates to new species which will need more time I can. I returned today from another trip to the coast where I collected a very resinous Polygonum which I have had in my head for two or three years. Once before I saw it without fl. or fr. & saved a bit which you have doubtless. Now I have plenty of specimens. It paints itself on the paper. I haven't had time to examine it & would be a little more sure of it if I did as it is not in Gris. certainly & his account of that family in the Catalogue I haven't yet got. I found also an Eichhornia? very much like one I used to see at Bayamo & the streams about there. But this grows in still water—lagunas which become quite dry in ~~summer~~ winter. I got also a little Commelynaceous plant which is not in Grisebach—not even the genus I wrote you a few days ago via Wethersfield & should not have troubled you again so soon but for my anxiety about my health. Riding on horseback is notoriously hard work & uncomfortable to those afflicted with piles and this last little excursion has made so deep an impression on my mind that it is my duty first of all to attend to my health on which depend my future labors

that I am ready resolved to wind up & come on next month with all I have gathered and seek first a cure & return immediately or work then till spring.

If you are willing to give me your opinion or advice do so immediately—and even in this case it may meet me on my way home. I shall probably make one or two more little excursions first. and—I may get better Quien sabe?

Kind regards to Mrs G. & to my friends down the street

Yours ever

Charles Wright

P.S. "Mr Wright" On envelope. Marinke pencils "Who? Mr Charles or William or who?" You'd better write on a little paper. Make your letter single if possible for your own sake as well as mine—fold & seal—put my name in full on it—nothing else—put in envelope—direct this "Messrs J. M. Morales & Co Habana"

"By the way Reichenbach tears me to ask you to get him orchids for the Hamburgh Garden" Let him tear away! I can't get at the little meteoric orchid now It is packed up with the others at Buleteria. After much study I suppose you meant to write "Teuke"

10

SHIP

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Ritin Sept 26th 1866

Dear Dr

A steam-saw-mill is good for something else than to chaw up pine logs. I had a good time in one the last two weeks when I could dry my paper and keep my press up to fever heat on top of the boiler. While the pine woods furnished me not a few novelties. Why I wanted only a single day for mat grasses and other small & little juicy things. But to begin at the beginning. I set out the 4th on a kind of specialty — to look up a species of cedar (Juniperus). I went eastward when it grows and got it but without fruit. However I got many other things with fl. & fr. — as a Solidago new to my coll. Hypis. Eriocaulon, Polygalinthus an "infinidad de" grasses & Cyperaceæ. one new Melastom. one new Utricularia & another Gentian of which I have no generic description i.e. it belongs to no genus in Grisebach. I got a new Naiad in fresh water a new Nymphæa — perhaps. This was near Bonas all Riv. I became acquainted with the owner of the sawmill in Palacios some years ago and was quite at home in the new locality. This is the sunny side of the picture. Now for the shady side. I set out on borrowed money about five dollars. With this I bought a cheap hat $2.00 and a pair of shoes $1. With the remainder I had to study the most niggardly economy. Which do you like best your hard labor or my mortification. My money gave out & I couldn't pay my ferriages on my way back nor buy a cracker for my breakfast. And I confidently expected to find here Gundlach with money for me. Not a bit of it. A letter from him of the 4th inst tells us he had been sick but was better. Since then not a word from him & I haven't the first red in my pocket and don't know when I shall have. How do you like the shady side? Meanwhile Cay hasn't written me a line since

he returned from New York. So I dont know whether he ever received the concluding portion of the Catalogues. Oh how I need it to study the Selerias which seem to me a "Sinnumero" and the Amaryllids & the Tillandsias &c &c. Cant you hurry up your cakes? I find here a letter—a small letter in a big cover—from Grisebach apologizing for his haste and expressing his mistakes &c &c and saying that he had written at least two letters which seem not to have reached me and that he had but slight hopes or expectations that this one would ever come into my hands with a note at the end in defence of Reynosa as having an excellent reputation among the German Chemists who commend his "proceedings with respect to cane-juice as based upon sound scientific principles." Will see maybe if these principles produce any practical results. Nobody here has any confidence in him. I hope you will try to supply our Cuban friend with a few copies of the Catalogues. as Grisebach tells me they will have otherwise to pay for them to Engelmann in Hamburg. or Leipsic.

27th I have effected another boat so I shall be able to set out on excursion in a few days. I find an error in Chapman of some magnitude in his discription of Zacinanthes. He says the stamens are opposite the outer smaller lobes of the perianth on the Cuban plant. they are opposite the inner larger lobes. Are they distinct plants generically he being right?

The Yucca seeds you sent to Don Jose germinated finely but some slug or other animal ate them all & he didnt save one. he begs me therefore to ask you if you have any left & can send him a few more. I have got a few more specimens of the Palo santo (better Palo maldito) incidentally for I got it some time ago.

30th. I shall set out tomorrow D.V. It has been rainy-catching-weather but it seems again to have become settled. I shall go to Pinas and thence—as the spirit moves.

I am so much better than I was that I have about concluded not to go home this fall. I was very reluctant to do it as the few coming months are among the best of not the very best of the whole year

The enclosed little Parmyrth. was found in just the same kind of soil as Dymaia ovalifolia Gr so far as my memory serves me & I dont find the latter. I dont well understand it so is it possible that Grisebach has so badly described it that it is not to be recognized?

We have now Guayavas agrias & bellas and ciruelas (Spondias purpurea) but they are not quite equal to your plums. They draw up the mouth (astringent) No more now. When I come back again I may have something to tell you. Memorias for Mrs G & for my friend down the street. wishes for their conjugal felicity

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge,
Mass.

La Machina Oct 10th 1866

Dear Dr.

The sawmill & its vicinity proved such good botanizing ground that I am back again a week and more. And I have not yet gone the full length. I have at least four new species of Utricularia and two three, or more Rhexiacea - paepalanthus & Eriocaulon. I have been examining anew Richardsonia muricata Gr. I see yet no sights of the circumscissile falling of the calyx-limb & except the form of the flower-head it has all the characters of Diodia. But I have a true Richardsonia very much like it but smaller in all respects which has the bracteate flower head & the bilobed stigma - & not quite ripe enough to show the circumscissile nature of the calyx-tube I must here a sort of a Diodia which I well remember collecting before in considerable quantity which Gray's check has certainly passed over without notice as he has several others. The peculiarity of this plant is in the fruit which is blackish at least before maturity and has a sort of thin sarcocarp at length becoming dry & he has not noted in the description of Borreria radicans the (generally) tripid corolla. There is a little Compositæ with flower-heads like Elephantopus but the achenia are naked. Now Gray ought to have had that & given us the name but I cant find out what it is. I have found a few specimens of an Erigeron with a single white capitulum on a long slender scape. It will be more plenty by & by I think. I have a Diodia which on drying emits a strong pleasant odor of liquorice. I have a brand new Agenia with little bits of leaves deeply dentate reminding me of the cauline leaves of some Saxifragas. Of grasses & Cyperaceæ I am finding at least if not new species such as I cant determine I found the other day what ought to be & perhaps is Rhexia serrulata but it does not agree with the description and on the banks of a pine-woods ditch-like rivulet Two sp of Trichomanes & a Lycopus neither of which appears to be in Spicebush Oh! how I want the rest of the Catalogue. Day before yesterday I found what I suppose to be a Micranthemum and a new species fid. mem. It is much larger than any thing of the kind I remember to have seen. I have at last found a species of that curious aquatic cryptogam on the bottom of ponds & streams with grass like leaves with obovate fl[illegible]

and small spores) and antheridia in the axils of the leaves. I cannot recall the name if it is not Azolla & I am very doubtful if it is. This is larger than I expected to find such a plant judging from figures. some leaves are a foot long or nearly so. I find here, in exceedingly sterile pebbly soil, what, from this fact alone, ought to be a new sp. of Lycopodium — the other or others growing on rich soil in the mountains. As I have no descriptions to consult for comparison can say no more about it — fl. white with a yellow spot on the upper segments (I found a cat's nest here, with three cubs which I killed — it being an "enemy domino") Yesterday I gathered what I supposed to be a Stelleria; but the many cells are uniovulate: dont know what it is. If I go on so, the Flora Cubana will be a big job — I got a good ducking to or its equivalent. I went to Colonia, a little port on the river, some three leagues from here. It drizzled on me a little when going, but it poured on me coming back. And yet, it does not seem to rain very hard, but is just the whole face of the earth under water. One little stream, which was belly-deep to my horse, I had to swim alternate. Luckily I kept my portfolio dry. Today it rained again great guns so that I couldn't go out of doors. I spent a little time in collecting with some success Polypodium with its base as well as some species of Utricularia with the same object — an object which I have not always kept in mind as I should have done

Today I stepped out, a little way, between the showers and found the extremes of Paspalum — one not an inch high & not more than 3-4 inches the other six feet & more. I found a Scirpus allied to S. plantagineus L. and a Rhynchospora new to me but many of these have such a uniform family look that it is risky to say of any one that it is new I have a new Dioscorea with sometimes three feet long leaves a foot long. I find again in considerable abundance thought rather past Abildgaardia setacea Lyn. I have what I suppose to be Lepidium Virginicum with leaves as long as the culms a foot and more

17th The rains have ceased and the northers have set in & every thing indicates the beginning of the dry season. I shall soon be able to camp out if it should suit me to do so. I have been paddling about these last days in various lagunas & day before yesterday among Rhynchospora surinamensis (I suppose) and cut up my feet & paid rather uncomfortably for it. It is a horrid saw. But I got good things beside. I am getting quite bewildered in the multitude of new Rhynchosporas Scirpis gramineas Dioscoreas &c. I found a huge Andropogon not yet in flower. I saved a couple of plants entire by doubling it. must be six or eight feet high. — grows on tembladeras — those fruitful fields of so many things. But I have the smallest Phyllanthus that you ever saw & I dare say the smallest you ever will see. Large specimens sometimes overgo an inch a little way but many very many fall short of it. I have a new Hymenachne also — quite distinct from any thing I remember. I collected again Benchoa disticha Phyllanthus &c. Two or three years ago I got some specimens of a Capparis very scanty & bad — a flower or two & some fruits with few leaves — a Heloniae near to procumbens Jacq. This I have seen often near Sta Cruz. Lately I met with one which I supposed to be this last, but the stam. are about half as long as the petals which dry yellow & not purple as Lyn. says. Hence suspecting it may be something interesting & not new I have dried an abundance of it. The margin of the above-mentioned laguna gave me an Ipomaea which I do not remember to have met with. It resembles in the leaves & calyx I. pinnatisecta Mey. but the cor. is purple & smaller. I found another white flowered species tomorrow go to Pinar del Rio & thence probably to the Ingenio Esperanza — a sugar estate distant about half a league from the city. Near it is the Laguna where I found a Begonia on a tembladera — a queer place to find it so different from the general habitat of these plants; and a Polygonum seen nowhere else. Got 'em again Retire 23d Returned today & find no letters. Dear me! when will that book — the basilisque — come? I am despairing about it. And Grindlach has not yet come & I am out of money still & I dont know what Sonnalle has done with all my paper. I am nearly out. I am getting about as much bewildered now with Andropogons as I was above then with Rhynchosporas. I have a huge one-flowered on tembladeras 6-8 ft high or more & two or three grassy-wood species lately found. Griseback gives me but little aid in determining these things. Collected again Mayaca Wright &c. Kept seeds

The indorsed note is Grisebach [illegible] I send them principally to convince him that [illegible] is not so very widely distributed [illegible]

My health has been improving till I feel almost well. The piles still annoy me but are never so badly as when I wrote you & my sciatica

months of coming home for the winters. I have now quite given up the garden. I was very reluctant to abandon the field now just in the best harvest season. In the spring, I can better afford to leave as the vegetation will be very much dried up.

Kind regards to Mrs G. & to my friends down the street Dr. & Mrs Dixon & Mrs B. & you all'ers.

Yours ever
Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

even paddling about in ponds. These
dont boys best.

I thank you, in behalf of many friends, for the seeds of Sequoia,

Now (afternoon.) I can speak more positively about paper and I haven't much. What has become of it I dont know but I cant think I have used it all. I doubt if I have more than two reams. So I'll beg you to send me some more — not very much perhaps considering that it is my design to come home in the spring: & perhaps it would be best to send to the house of Morales & Co writing a line at the same time to Mr A. Marnitz — one of the cleverest (in the American sense) fellows in the world I shall see Mr Sauvalle and as he is changing his plants & throwing out the old paper I'll beg him to save it in case that your remittance should fail or that for any reason I should run short.

Yours ever Chas Wright

Dr. Gray

Habana 28th Oct 1866

Dear Dr.

Tho' I wrote you quite lately & send another line I came to Habana in quest of paper. There seems to be something inexplicable about the rapid consumption of what I brought with me. Perhaps I shall find a solution tomorrow. I dont know how much I have left till I go & see.

I find here your notes of Sept 8th & 12th the former containing seed of Sequoia & the latter your medical advice. Perhaps you will take offence that I have concluded not to follow it — I hope not. I trust you will be better pleased to know that I am much better — almost well — than to see me home & worse. I was so anxious to improve this the best season of the year in collecting that perhaps my change of plan has not been a wise one. I hope the results will not be very injurious. My disease is not I believe one of the critical ones. & I think I may

without much damage weather out the coming winter & go home in the spring so then there will be comparatively little to do for the drought which in that season plants put to sleep all herbaceous, nearly & most woody and arboreal ones

If you should look into the letter I sent lately to Grisebach (open that you might gratify your curiosity if you please) you will see what a nice little number of new little things I have lately picked up and among bigger things I get some novelties

I find here those missing sheets of the Catalogue so that now I have all but the last sheets of the Filices & the preface index &c Why Bay hasn't sent them before (if he indeed as I suppose did) I don't know. He doesn't write me any thing & I think behaves strangely towards me. I hardly had an opportunity today to ask Sawalle how they came into his hands.

Your notion about Sawalle's crotchet is perhaps good. He was with Don Pepe while I was in the Machina & didn't mention the subject nor did he allude to it today. Perhaps he will see the true state of the case himself.

If my paper is reduced to the small quantity represented to be in the commercial house I shall be under the necessity of asking you to send me a supply before very long. But I will write more knowingly after seeing to-morrow how the matter is

You had better write me on thin letter-paper seal & write my name only on it. On the envelope write only the address of the house "J. M. Morales & Co Habana"

Mr Sawalle is very much better than he always has been since I have known him & seems to be getting well again. I hope he may continue to gain till he becomes a strong active man as he was before he lost his health now some years ago

29th My birthday — 55 years old — most time to quit climbing trees & cliffs &

Retiro Nov 6th 1866

Dear Dr.

On my return from Habana studying on the rapid disappearance of my paper the solution came at once to my mind. Hereto fore I have used new paper steam-pressed - a large quantity in small bulk. This time I brought paper tied up by hand and of course less compact — comparatively a small quantity but showing large. Thus I have used it up faster than I thought I should. So I can not too earnestly recommend to you that you send me some with the least delay. I think I would send to the house of Morales & Co. writing a line to Mr. Marrick who will advise me of it. I saw him in Habana & I like him the better the more I see of him and have to do with him. He is one of a thousand according to my experience thus far.

Lamalle was very kind & cordial - did not mention the subject of the Flora Cubana

I have not looked over with much care yet the newly received sheets of the Cat. - will tell you more about it when the concluding part comes

I spent some days in la Concordia & went to a large marsh which reaches to the sea. There I got some plants which may be new - one certainly is to my coll. a Thrinax. I got a var. of Panicum brevifolium 6ft or more high. Some Rhynchospora and grasses that I cant make out. Some years ago I got in Guane an imbed of a huge Cyperus passae. Probably it was sent to Gris. Well at la Concordia I found in good condition a plant & at least by splitting I made a good number of specimens. It is the largest Cyperus I know — has no leaves

except the involucre the basal ones being [illegible] please tell me if you know anything of it could be sketched

R.S.

I got also Myrsine coriacea & now I shall get Jpomea hepaticifolia from Dom. Jorge gazeta. which it would appear I have not yet named. I got back yesterday & expected to find Grisebach here but he hasn't come which I the more regret as I entrusted to him the little paper I found in Habana on the assurance that he would doubtless be here before me & could bring it as well as not direct which I had to make a considerable detour.

My ride yesterday was a pretty long one but it did not inconvenience me any and my health seems to improve so that I feel quite like my old self again. I ride now on a thick woollen blanket. Perhaps this may alleviate the ill effects commonly ascribed to equestrian traveling for such as are troubled with piles.

Is it possible that Galactia pinetorum — so exceedingly abundant in all the pine woods near the coast of Cuba and in the inland savanna-lagunas does not extend to Florida (it is not in Chapman) nor to any of the Brit. W.I. Islands? (it is not in Grisebach). I thought I had found two sp. of Muscadea (only one enumerated)

Belairia ternata Nr. you can wipe out. It is Pickeltia angustifolia Gr. (not am sure it is so) I had all along supposed that P. ternata H. was B. mucronata & I haven't now the least idea how this thing works. P. ternata gets to be a good deal more than "3-5-pedalis". I guess I have seen it 20 ft high.

The fl. of Andromeda cubensis Gr. are surely not ereckis

Grisebach has printed in two places Cudicium for Cucidium or allowed to be printed. I don't admire those names in small caps. — and he has Cavanalia miniata Bed time

Yours ever

Chas Wright

Dear Taylor

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

STEAMSHIP
10

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Dated at BOSTON,

Nov 26th 1860

Bridge Lord & Co
for Master

Pinar 28th Nov 1866

Dear Dr

We returned (Grisebach & self) yesterday (day before) from our little trip as far as Viñales. We had on the whole a pretty good time. As our researches were confined to the mountains which I had already traversed two or three times before & nearly at the same season of the year it need not surprise you if I found little or nothing of novelty. I did however get something quite new — a Burmannia with a single yellow flower. Of things gathered before I have now better specimens which will clear up doubts re. Thm of Rondeletia verbenacea Gr. I have now the flowers. & examined it & I can hardly express my wonder how Grisebach could make such a blunder as to give it "seminibus innumeris" for each (of the two) cells of the capsule has a single flat winglis seed. And I see nothing "verbenaceous" about it It has the racemous leaves of Phialanthus. In the sierra de Cpina or "in montibus Catalina" I collected before an Anthurium growing on the cliffs. Gr. ought to have had it but I cant recognise it in the list. In all these cliffs I found a Gesneraceous plant & collected it plentifully before. I cant recognise this neither with the Stam. & caps. of Pentarhaphia it has a clavate, crimson corolla with a perfectly even minutely 5 lobed limb (lobes [illegible]) leaves & stem villous. Perhaps it is Rytidophyllum crenulatum Gr. of which I have no description. I ought to have traversed this region in Aug. or Sept. but I lost the opportunity for Grisebach. who after all found nothing new. I thought it likely that he would find new species — but not one was collected either by me or him — a pretty good evidence of the careful observations in previous journeys.

I am in some doubt & undecided whether I will make another journey westward as far as the Punta de la Iguana or go to Habana & embark thence for Trinidad. If it was earlier in the year I would not hesitate a moment to decide on the

former. I want very much to go over again those savannas to the westward of Cpuana. & think I can get plenty something of value from them. And perhaps Trinidad at this season would give me no more of interest than Batabano or Cuba & I rather incline to make another trip during the coming month. Besides I can hardly go eastward till I receive the catalogue which you are going to send me — when? I am — quite well I may say

Yours truly

Charles Wright

P.S. Don José has fourteen (14) young Cinchonas and is rejoicing I brought him some plants of Befaria, Bejaria, Chapm., Calensis

Relins Dec 2nd 1866

Dear Dr.

My sister whom you saw at your house has been for some time in feeble health. My elder sister tells me that the most she needs is rest and at home she will work. I advise her to go to Boston this winter and amuse herself, attend the Lowell Lectures and rest. I dont know whether she will follow my advice or not but if she should I beg you to assist her so far as procuring tickets is concerned and in any other way which will not much tax your time and attention.

We are in the midst of a dull drizzly spell of weather—a norther. We have planned to go tomorrow into the mountains for a day or two & will return soon to Habana & then I shall make a concluding trip away westward, consuming the rest of the month perhaps a part of the next. Then the steamer will have come probably & I mean to go to Trinidad, on the S. coast, & thence to the place & finally to Batavia, port de which is Montevideo. Thus I shall find occupation for the time between this & May when I can venture home without risking my health.

If you have the means of comparison & time & inclination to do it please examine Stenodon Pistadenia stenodenia Gr. Cat. p. 81. 2 I had examined, & come to the conclusion that it is a sp. of Dictoria— and a Schizodactylus &c. Benth & Hook. p. 592

Sauvalle writes me that he ordered to Gen. Plant. Benth & Hook and they charge him $11.50 for them & $8.50 for a copy of Gen. Pl. Brit. N. Am. !!! We beg to know the price.

I wrote in my last that I could not recognize an Anthurium which I had collected anew I now think it is A. venosum Gr. The leaves even in the few specimens I have are exceedingly variable obtuse & acute broad & narrow large & small (8"–18") sinus open or closed lobes overlapping &c. &c.

4th. Yesterday we went into the mountains (La Palma, vega)

where we intended to stay all night and a part of the day but [illegible] and a good [illegible] tramp we made of it. The people of the vega [illegible] a bad trick the reason for which we do not yet know. I found nothing new [illegible] unless it may be a moss or a fungus [illegible] caught a great many butterflies and other things. I fear the weather has become warmer? It is sultry now (at night) perhaps foreboding rain. Day after tomorrow I hope to set out for the westward again and am sorry that I haven't the stereographs. No more now from

Yours truly

Charles Wright.

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

La Michinea Dec 12th 1866

Dear Dr.

I am again at the steam-saw mill among the pines and drying my collections by steam

Yours of Nov 23d came just (at night) a few hours too late to relieve the distress of Engelmann Veg on the subject of Isoetes. That day I had been putting together into their proper families all I had dry & had packed up every thing. Early the next morning I started away on this trip. So E. veg will have to wait patiently till my plants reach Manchester unless I should meet again the plant here. I have been today in the district where I found it before but the streams are now dry & I don't know but it is dried up too. I did not find it. You may now add to the Cuban Flora Luziola which I collected yesterday. Whether it is L. Peruviana I can not tell from Griesbachs miserable meager mile or a character. Today I found another new to me grass with flower like Oryza or Leersia but with long awns. I have not examined it yet. In Pinales I found in pond with Pistia another plant like it loosely cellular but with divided leaves lobed, ternate, and one even incipiently decompound. Since then I found it in abundance in a pond along my late route. The complete leaves are decompound with filiform segments, the petiole inflated and throwing off below innumerable radicles after the manner of Pistia. Is it another species of the genus. When here before I found on the bottom of rivulets a Plant resembling Juncus. I found no fl. then & find it in the same localities still without fl. but in a drier up pond I met with some in fr. or perhaps flowers might be found by further examination. The fl. seem to be only three in the panicle? & nearly concealed in the base. The vegetative [illegible] seem to be entirely under water

Yesterday I found a second sp. of Hypobrichia much smaller & more delicate than H. Spruceana. and another little thing which I havent yet examined but it looks like Bergia. When here before I collected a Lindsaea on the shaded damp banks of pine-wood rivulets a little delicate thing. Today I found another sp., I collected one sp. L. subsimilaria from localities
trapeziformis Dry. (may be) in eastern Cuba & another sp. near Retiro which (also conjecture might be a dwarf specimen of L. quadrangularis — in which I think he is wrong. Today I found a little moss on the bottom of a rivulet (drill-up) which perhaps a week ago, certainly not very long since, was a running stream. It is one of those exceedingly small things which are only a few minute leaves and the globular theca squatted in the middle of them. I have seen similar things on damp ground in Connecticut but not here till now.

14th May Little Bergia (or whatever it may turn out to be) seems to me a queer thing. Cal. 0. Cor 4-fid. petals or processes (so small I can hardly tell which) Stam 2. Caps. 3-valved. The new grass is Ory 2a without doubt but why it should be called O. latifolia I cant divine. In this case too Griseback's description is so big (for measurements given)
that I can only guess my plant is the same which is found from [Southern United States To Brazil] The "ligule" does not appear to me "short"; "inferior branches" of panicle not "whorled" in more than half the specimens: leaves not "lanceolate-acuminate" but just what would be called in any exogen linear or narrowly lanceolate-linear. And by the way I may as well protest at once against Mr. G's description of grass-leaves. I would like to be shown a leaf of Olyra latifolia for example that is "ovate-oblong" or "ovate lanceolate" or even "lanceolate" I have now a plenty of my Juncus I had to hunt carefully & long to get specimens with fl. — saw none expanded — put my spectacles on for it

I have been studying out a plan for continuing my Cuban explorations by proxy Cant we find some young fellow of the right spirit who wants to come here and botanize if ensured reasonable pay. I think I can interest Sauvalle, Jimeno, & others perhaps to unite and sustain a collector. I will contribute my mite & I dare say you will do so too. We must make certain conditions. He must not collect all weeds and pass by the good things. He must climb hills & go into the woods and not content himself with riding over the Savanas. He may have the naming of all novelties but his collections will be ours to be sold for his support So our disbursements will be light. Perhaps Mr Curtis may know some duly-repentant rebel who would as soon as not migrate to Cuba.

And by the way you may be wanting to see Chapman Please ask him if he will not exchange Southern U. S. plants for Cuban. I shall want specimens to examine & pick to pieces (your herb. must serve for the latter) when I come to study the Cuban plants Those most like the Cuban ones (or identical) will be the most useful.

15th Today I found a new Andromeda and a Utricularia and a Rhynchospora which I dont know all growing in those queer places — tiny [illegible] floating peat islands in lagunas. They have yielded me many nice things, before Another thing Rhynchospora grows thickly there whose leaves cut like a knife & I have to go with much care to save my hide (& I dont entirely save it after all) and get my plants — for I go on them naked — having to wade deep oftentimes before I reach them. I find on them besides the two diverse Lycopodium clavatum a large Dicranella. Osmunda and a Lepidium unitum Hymenachne sericea Scirpi Eleocharis) a huge Andropogon 8-10 ft high. Cyperaceae etc. &c. &c. &c.

19th
Another rare sickening on the tinted ladies yesterday is a Verbena resembling V. rigida. Poir dont the calyx seems to be split after the manner of Abildgardia and the sets are long more than twice the length of the involucrum. It seems new to me. (I send a bit)
Baker went to Cuba the 17th of last May (Ed. Norris of March 5th) to be gone till next fall! Now dont say whether he has returned yet. Yesterday I took a ride to the S.W. & got a new Fuirena—tall, erect, bristles between the scales. L. lagunae. It has the habit of growing out very slender at top, bending over, rooting & going on again. I found also a Utricularia which has two kinds of fl. somewhat after the manner of Amphicarpaea. It has a scape of yellow fl. supported by five radiating nitlets leaves. I suspect these yellow fl. are barren. (haven't examined into that) But on the submersed stem grow subsessile, axillary, apetalous, fl. which have apparently good seed—lenticular muricate on the margin. The capsule is a pyxis. Griseback dont tell us how the westindian species debisci, & I am so confoundedly ignorant that I dont now, know if I ever did. To you this may be an old story but it is new to me.
20th. It has rained several times lately either here or in the vicinity. This afternoon fell a nice rain—a succession of gentle showers. This will delight the negroes (Planco-Hunter) and the people generally. Perhaps it may bring out some early flowers if it continues mild as it now is. Tomorrow I propose to go into the pine hills where I got Marattia and Griseback's new genus of Umbelliferae, Lecaniotum. I remember (or think I do) very well when I got it. I saw no fl. or fr. & so saved but little of it as I commonly do in such cases. When I get back to Retirement I will write again.

Yours ever
Charles Wright

Arroyo Arado Dec 26th /66

Dear Dr

My last visit a few days ago in Juana Diaz took me out of my departure in chase of Marathrum Diaz bescidiosum. I have been successful in finding both the staminate and pistillate plant in flower. I conjecture that I suspected Spruce had mixed up things but I see that he was right. Marathrum Bifoliatum today but it has nine eight flowers.

Here I have two species of Hypericum to dispose of. I think from how named in the case Pl. Cubenses I have an abundance of the Cuban plant considered by Grisebach as var. pygmaea of H. corniculata I should be hard to convince that it is rightly named. I have a brown new Blechnum with very few lateral pinnae and a long terminal one. A day or two before I last visited I collected an abundance of Hypericum asemarioides Rich. as I suppose I have discovered here also a nice Cuscuta i.e. very distinct from any thing I have yet seen — but legumes only — no flowers quite decayed up. I shall rely on Don Jose to raise us some plants from which to get flowers. I got an abundance of seed on the This species. Mosses, Hepaticae as usual. Some grasses which I gave name to and which ought to be in the Cat. Two species of Hemionitis, one new Bargeron, very small indeed. And Pavonia is rather queer. The plants have legitimate panicoid fl. the other half have them transformed into those of Bragantia but no stamens nor pistils. Ground rocks limestone in abundance here. A few specimens of the new Blechnum also of a Spilanthes with leaves of Hollys. Tomorrow I go to Las Cuevas Jan 1st 1867 "A happy new year" to you & Mrs Gray I came here yesterday when all is jollification in the "Fiestas de la Pascua" — Christmas. Today I went to the

neighboring cliffs when I got little but shells and a lichen or two for Fuckerman. From Arroyo [redacted] Honda I went to Luis Zaro and stayed a few days. And now I can sing another song about Marathrum. I got a plenty of flowers & heavy rain fell there & it is showery-catching weather— since. I propose to go a little farther west among the pines. I want particularly to find again Pinillosia bellidoides Lyr. which I dont believe is a congener of the others Hemsonia nuttalloides is not rare in these parts & I have seen it in various others but very rarely in Fl. or Fr.

Los Remates Jan 4th. Today I got a great abundance of Pinillosia bellioides Lyr. fr. & a few fl. I cant but doubt about its generic identity with the other spp which I got also today P. repens Sch. as I guess

I wrote you some time ago of finding a Rhexine near Pinar del Rio like R. procumbens Jacq but which seemed to me to differ in some points & I suggested that it might be the same as a copyard which I once collected here in a few miserable specimens. Today I find the same thing in the same miserable state generally but one specimen will serve to describe it. It is probably a Blennella. petals 4 denticulate. Stam. 7 the 3 upper with bottleshaped (apparently) imperfect anthers turned upwards the 4 lower approximate straight—the anthers approximate around or near the stigma

The plant which above I guess is Pinillosia repens has one peculiarity worth recording. After flowering the long peduncle takes a twist downward to the ground where I imagine the seeds germinate and very likely the capitulum throws out radicles and thus it goes on forming new plants. I dont hardly like to believe that the peduncle so slender as it is becomes a part of the candex tho' it looks a little like it. But that it is a law of the growth in this plant that the fruiting capitulum shoots reach the ground I can not doubt.

Yesterday fell a perfect deluge of rain and filled all the lagunas covering up such plants as had sprung up around them. Hence the Lemnaceas which are floating will afford the only botanizing ground in the ponds. Tomorrow I purpose to go to Calguisa and collect if in fl. a little more of my Palmia & then wend my way back to Retiro

La Grifa 6th Today I found a tiny new Orchid—a Schomburgkia in its essential characters but it wants the large leaves I can see no other difference. It is quite a showy plant but requires climbing to get to it. I hired a negro to cut two trees after I had climbed one and thus got a pretty good supply. It is strange that I didn't find it when here before at the same season. for it seems abundant just at this spot at least.

8th. Yesterday I found again Palmia ericoides & a new Schwpt. which I have not fairly studied—the flowers are so scanty. also Hemianthus verticillatus sp. n.—4-5 ately leaves, verticillate; also Polypremum procumbens, erect as a grenadier; also more of Blennella lagenandra, sp. n. miserable specimens as at los Remates. A plenty could be got in Aug. or Sept I wrote you some time ago of an Erigeron with a single capitulum on a slender scape from a bunch of obovate thickish brittle leaves at the base. I have now a plenty of it. I find a Chloris which I cant make out (in fact I cant make out any of 'em) I ought to have got it when here before—also Polypremum and can only wonder that I didn't. I find also Diandria radicans Lyr. I find also a Chaetogastra which I cant determine (and I may say the same of them as of Chloris)

Los Portales de Guame 10th Yesterday I left La Grifa and my kind host Don Jose Valdez. On my way here I crossed the most barren spot I have seen in Cuba—pine is said among the pine yet it gives a variety to good things. There grows in over the pepite thickets of Hypericum stypheloides Rich—a showy plant. I crossed too a thicket (very low one thought 6 inches high) of my Calinia ericoides. I found also one if not two new sp. of Eriocaulon or Paepalanthus (I haven't examined them) and what appears to me to be a Lechea. I am impressed with the idea that I got it before. I found something like Malvaviscus but with long slender quite prostrate branches in the sands. Today I spend in the house of Don Pedro Valdez brother of my friend at La Grifa who wouldnt allow me to pay for the fodder which had to be bought for my horses nor for the washing of my clothes. Here I find again Stegnosperma fr. and what appears to me Metastelma leptoclados Gr. and a little more Microcarpaea rotundata Wr.

Retiro Jan 21st Returned today I find yours of 1st with renewed many thanks— but now I must tell you of an occurrence which gives me some uneasiness. On Thursday morning last (the 18th is monday) I was feeling as well as usual—in quite well and continued my journeying soon after sunrise I had not been long on the way when I felt a prickling sensation in various parts of my body with feverish heat and very feeble pulse. I took off my coat then my undercoat as the sun was getting well up & hot. A glaring light came over my eyes but deprived me of vision and a kind of vertigo obliged me to dismount. After a while I tried again to mount but would have fallen if I had not got down immediately I was near a house & lay down by the side of the fence. The man passed me to whom I told my situation & he brought me coffee & afterwards some herbtea. With sitting then I would have fallen on my face if he had not supported me (friend) and was able to walk to the house where I staid the remainder of the day.* The next day I was quite as well as before I continued my journey. What by such an attack should come on me when sorrounded on the left). I must quit this work for this time.

* I saw here Eriocaulon (Cat. Pl. Cub.) p. 7 a foot diam. & 30-40 ft high

Habana. Feby 8th 1867

Dear Dr.

I came here yesterday with all my luggage left good Don Jose with his seeds planning his Nueva Yorkanda. We took a parting glass — of beer together He will be lonely now. He desired me to return you "miles de gracias."

I saw Sauvalle last night. He is quite well for him — seems to have had some change by which he has wonderfully improved within the last half year or more. We didn't talk much botany. He has been appointed a kind of inspector of the Western Railroad — where there has been much maltersation or mismanagement probably rascality — plundering &c This with his own private business keeps him very busy. He was at Valladena while I was away west. Col. Maury — son of Lieut. M. was with him. I would have been glad to see a live rebel of some eminence to talk with him But perhaps I was better employed.

Don Simon de Cardenas is at his sugar estate near Remba & Quadalachara probably. They are expected in a day or two perhaps will come today. Nobody in the house but the "portero" (door keeper) But I find a lodging which is the principal thing & Sauvalle told me that I would find a vacant place at his table & a knife & fork. So I shant borrow trouble about "what I shall eat" &c

Your plants come in two large bales put up as I have sent them before in "yagua" — the sheaths of Oreodoxa regia. I don't know as I shall pull them to pieces & put the parcels in boxes — will consult Mr. Manitz. They reached here in pretty good condition & perhaps with a string cord I can fasten them so that they will go on so in all safety

These all except a very few of these last dried are thrown into families in the order in which Grisebach has arranged them in the introduction to his Flora (not as in the body of the work). Then there is another bundle from Toscano which I can not incorporate with the rest — nor is it at all necessary — and two little parcels one of which I find in my trunk collected mainly about the city here & dried ~~the~~ here tho' collected elsewhere and another which is still in "la Semana" & which Grisebach will bring when he comes. Then two or three I may pack up so as to form but one bundle or I may put the smaller ones in a box I can tell better when I get all together. Then there is a bundle of Fern-candices prettily well tied up with maja gala (bark of Hibiscus tiliaceus) Paritium. Perhaps I shall strengthen this with cord & let it go as it is. You know my views of making these things useful by splitting them. Eaton once wrote me that he thought or feared you would absorb all these. Split them with a saw & thus make specimens for two at least — perhaps for four. I consider a half better than the whole — for you thus see the internal & external structure at one view. If they can be sold for enough to pay my expenses on them "tanto mejor" — that is, a part of the trunks.

So it is a settled plan that I am to undertake a "Flora Cubana" it will be better not to distribute any of these except the lower families — not even the ferns. We will settle that matter when I come home next summer. I fear the parcel from Toscano especially some algæ may be badly mouldy and I can do nothing with them here (so it looks well)

I have just taken a peep at the ederecographies. They are very fine I am so sorry the others were lost. & now these come so late that they will be much less useful. But when my successor comes we will fit him out with a good lot of the best.

Have you been enticing Grisebach that he should get "miffed"? I get no letter from Gay since he went to New York. Perhaps he is "miffed" too. I dont like his late demeanor towards me at all. I fear I must go to Matanzas. If so the connection between us will be dissolved at once & I will keep my money in my pocket when I can get it whenever I want it.

I haven't any tidings from my brother since the last of November — very, very strange! I cant account for the frequent miscarriage of his letters. That he has written I cant for a moment doubt. Hence I dont know that my order has followed my counsel.

Canvalles says he will do all he can to carry out my plan for continuing botanical explorations when I retire from the field. He will aid with money hospitality & recommendation if the right kind of a man can be found.

Friend Blain received a few days ago a box of living plants from Washington. May-be when I come home we can make him another remittance.

10 P.M. Went to Matanzas yesterday for money. I his written but Gay was strangly silent. But he explains his reticence after a manner with the excuse that he has had a good deal of sickness in his family & that he is driven about by the chiefs of the house so that he can never be sure of having a moment that he can call his own. I saw that he has to dodge here & there, quit one thing to attend to another which he can do better than the other employes &c. I went to M. almost with the resolve to blow him up & break off all connection. but he seemed so cordial

that I was very much appeased. He had written in answer to my last application — but too late. I shall get the letter from Retiro in a day or two — probably

Don Simon & family returned yesterday. Good luck will be his. Today. I shall then soon arrange every thing for shipment and be away to Trinidad. I go today to breakfast with Abarnitz (10 A.M.) and will then & then make all necessary arrangements for the embarcation of my plants.

I hope the bank-plundering, bragging Brute Butler dont represent you in the next congress. A pretty kettle of fish you have there in Washington — a kind of modern French Convention But I see Pennsylvania will send Robespierres to attend to his own business at home. Pray tell me what your opinion is of the proceedings of our sensi-U.S. Congress. Instead of admitting new states into the union they are manufacturing them out of very insufficient materials (1/5 of the requisite population) and advertising them as ready for admittance. I wish Old Jackson would rise up among them & swear "by the Eternal" that he wont make them learn the Constitution by heart like schoolboys the catechism.

Sawalle wants to know for what sum per annum a good collector could be obtained to come to Trinidad and continue botanical explorations

I see by the papers that some good souls in the North are doing something to relieve the suffering of our Southern brethren If not too late will you contribute for me and charge to my account $20 (twenty dollars) to aid in the good work. I have kindred there — loyal people too who fought for the union and I would rejoice to know not only that their daily food was daily provided but that they would soon — immediately indeed — enjoy all the civil rights to which as citizens of the United States they are indisputably entitled to exercise. In such case the fanatical mob calling themselves the U.S. Congress would soon lose some of its power

13th Feby. Today I deposited a box of palm & other seed in the Englis consulate for Rev. H. you think of it tell Dr. Hooker of it when you next write so that if there should be any neglect or carelessness the British officials may be chargeable. They told me that it couldn't go now till next month.

I am going to put my plants in two boxes which I am having made. The paint from Toscano looks well on the outside and as far in as I can see by opening the seams a little. Some of those in the little vase in La Termina & brought by Gaudichaud were badly eaten particularly an Asclepias and a Sida shrub. perhaps others

15th. Yours of 4th inst just come. Thanks for the seeds. I am here sweating & stewing waiting for some boxes to put my plants in. I cant probably get off for Trinidad till next Wednesday (20th.)

You'd better not write again till you get fresh instructions for Marnitz tells me that the mail comes no more to their house so that our plan to forward letters will yield us no more advantages. But few letters at most will pass between us in the three or four following months. I will write you on my arrival in Trinidad

I will look out for Wolffia. These little things cost no trouble hardly. Almost as soon as the pond-water has evaporated they are dry. Who is Austin?

Kind remembrances to Mrs G. & hope that her face has subsided

For a few days I am snuffling & sneezing so as almost to snap my neck in two or burst my head open otherwise as well as common

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Habana Feby 18th 1867

Dear Dr.

Hooraw! Joe got in at last. A friend told me the Star was in. I went to see Marnitz to know if he had got the book & while talking a man entered with it.

Your expression "the good Mr. Marnitz" is no flattery. He is a good fellow. I was a little bothered about the disposal of my boxes. Nobody seems willing to receive them in their warehouses. They want them delivered on the dock to wait till the lighters can take them off to the ships (Ships small ones load at the dock - they load by means of lighters - Bah! Let 'em brag of the magnificent harbor of Habana —— those who have seen no other) Marnitz says bring them here; I'll ship them for you. So that is arranged & tomorrow I shall turn them over to his care.

I looked a few minutes over the Catalogues and then carried it to Canvalle that he might improve the little time that now remains to me here in writing down the [illegible] Thanks for the botanical papers which I have read over hastily.

I had to break up some of my packages of plants in order to get them into the boxes which were rather too small But they wont jostle about much. If some of them are not broken on the edges by strongly pressing on thin parcels I shall be glad. The breaking up of the arrangement isn't of much consequence - a little more work.

You cant imagine the trouble Joe had to get ready to go to Trinidad. If I were to return here I'd resort again to horses and anathematize steamboats & railroads.

Grandtack goes tomorrow with all his Cuban collection to the Paris exhibition. You can hardly imagine how he is loved here I dont say esteemed - that is not the word. Even a whole day before his departure I saw tears in manly eyes at the thought of his leaving & you may

judge of the feelings of his lady friends who love him no less sincerely
One old lady gave him a portmonnaie with twelve onzas in it $204
a heavy little present. Others have supplied him with clothing
for the change of climate he will encounter &c &c

19th I saw Gundlach off - Then took my two boxes of plants & the
bundle of fern caudices to the house of Morales & delivered them
into the care of Mr. Manitz who will ship them within a few
days probably by the Brit. Brig Laura. I tied up strongly the
bundle which contains two Alsophilas or something of the sort
Hemitelia horrida (if I mistake not) and an Asplenium if this
latter being small & shrinking has not fallen out. I think
you had better keep them as they are till I come.

I believe I have now every thing arranged for my voyage. except
getting my checks & ticket (Railroad) They have a clumsy way of checking
They stick on your trunk a pronged paper & give you a similar
one as a check. But they receive the baggage y tomorrow this
afternoon so that one need not hurry and fret about it before
sunrise tomorrow morning.

If you should have a chance to acknowledge the arrival of the
plants by letter bag y sailing vessel to me through Manitz
do so as then will be no costs or little. But if I find myself
comfortable at Trinidad as I hope & believe I shall write you
immediately. Till then I remain as ever

Yours truly

Chas Wright

C Wrayley
'65 - '66 '67

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Cuba Ap 20th 85

Dear Dr

I have just boxed up and directed the plants collected here. They go by the Bark Casco, Capt. Gardner. Consignees Geo. S. Stephens & Co. 49 South St. N. York, I thought it better to ship them than to carry them with me to Cuba where I hope to go — to start tomorrow. If you knew the bother it has cost me today just to start that little parcel of paper or what remains of it on the way to Cuba if you didn't curse some I can hardly doubt you would think "damn it" You cant imagine the bore it is to go through all the formalities of shipping a parcel even from one port of the island to another.

Since I wrote you I went into the mountains to an old capital now a potrero or pasture. It was excessively dry yet I found some things I — remember collection. [illegible] — a Paullinia do — an Adiantum that I cant determine I came here a week ago and have found some novelties here also — an Echites like E. suberecta — a Tagas certainly new to me collected — P.S. Pav. Fil. (P.S. no doubt) inibition — a Datura most like Stramonium yet I can hardly (God mercy!) believe it is — a very minute (capsule) Cordia &c. &c. But till [illegible] it has been extremely dry. Last night we had a good long steady shower.

Cuba 24th. Arrived here this morning. On the way I lost the receipts for the boxes plants — The wind blew it out of my hands but I guess you will have no difficulty in getting it. Tomorrow I hope to go to Guantanamo and the day after I may reach Monte Verde

I find here a Steamer which plies about every four weeks between this port & N. York touching at Nuevitas. I rather think now that I shall make my calculations to return by her on her second following trip or about the middle of June.
I was pretty badly seasick last night for and have hardly got over it fully now at this hr. — We eat nothing today till dinner at 5, P.M.
I thought I should hit land off this Hill & get to Guantanamo where I come expect to find a letter from you which I could then acknowledge. But I will not neglect this chance of writing by the Steamer Yak-kee. which will reach N.Y. in two weeks or less. — Keep in remembrance

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Sta Catalina de Guantanamo
Ap. 26th 1867

Dear Dr.

Arrived this morning & find yours of the 8th. I don't faint. I hope I shall bear my loss philosophically. But I am utterly confused. How can I undertake the formidable task of making again that great collection of the vuelta abajo — those savanas — those lagunas and more particularly climbing those mountains? I cant yet collect my ideas

You write "I enclose for you a letter received from Lyrsebach &c". I dont find it

I wrote you & left the letter in Cuba yesterday to go by the Yankee tomorrow

Try to find somebody to take my place If I knew one could be found I would stay willingly to initiate him into the business. And I must renew my efforts

to get some privileges from the Spanish
Government if I have to continue my
work another two years

I'll write again when I've slept a
few nights on it.

It seems to me that the bank ought
to be liable for the pecuniary value of the
prints. But you have doubtless thought
of this

Kind regards to Mrs Gray from
your affectionate friend
Chas Wright

Monte Verde. May 5th 1867

Dear Dr

Back again at the old home and tho' I dont find my good old friend Don Federico I meet with cordial hospitality from Mr. and Mrs Baisson &c &c.

From Saltadero I acknowledged briefly your notes of the 2nd & 4th ult. which I found there on my arrival. Along the railroad track from Guantanamo & the harbor, to Saltadero = Sta Catalina - 5 leagues is a level district of low woods - rushes, vines, low trees, among which, as the train passed, I noted flowers. So, after two days at Henry Escaille's one here, I went down to examine this place - and I am pretty well paid for my trouble. There is a huge, widely spreading Ceiba with a trunk a foot + in diameter, of which I saved specimens (and troublesome things to dry they are) and which will be a novelty for the Cuban Flora. I saw it when here before with fl. but no fr. and I think I have spoken to you of it. A Plumiera, which I cant determine, is also found there and a Pithecolobium, do. I got also Stigmaphyllon microphyllum Gr. and Valantinia diciphia, a Randia, (Sagraeana probably) and some other things which I can not, for want of books, determine. I have been so much occupied drying these things that I have made no considerable excursion here. It has been exceedingly dry & now the rains seem to have fairly set in. a full month earlier than common, and they are irregular, beginning in the morning, even before daylight, when usually the mornings till midday or later are fair.

My sister did not go to Cambridge. I have only just now from her an acknowledgement of my letter containing the proposal I made her. She thought it best not to accept it.

No doubt I get "most imperfect and one-sided statements of the doings of Congress" My information came mainly

I read
from the N. York Tribune in which Mr Johnson's veto messages.
Did you read them? In my judgment there was in them something
more than "vox et preterea nihil" which often characterizes Con-
gressional declamation. In former times when a bill was vetoed
the Congress used to take into consideration the objections to it
Did your Congress do it? No! and it is the very best evidence that his
objections were unanswerable and that Congress were predetermined
to pass the bill right or wrong. If Mr Johnson shoulds sink into
"insignificance" whether "deserved" or not he will have to thank
Congress who have completely tied his hands leaving him the
name of President without the power. If the good Lord would
deign in his mercy to remove to a happier or hotter country a
few of those irremediable fanatics, Stephens, Butler, Sumner
& the like, I would have some hope for the future. In one point we
shall agree — that "the Republicans are too many in Congress" and
Connecticut has set the example which will doubtless be followed
of reducing their number.

After writing the above & just after breakfast (we breakfast
at 1, P.M.) came a letter from Mr Anthony. My box of shells
& insects fared like my plants. He represents them as soaked with
water. The shells can be dried & will not be much worse for the
wetting and he represents the insects as not so very bad. Clearly
he does so for my sake. Nevertheless I wouldnt give much for
a parcel of butterflies drowned in molasses. I hope you'll
join teams & sue for damages. & put the figure high for I
spent many an hour by day & by night drying them things
and spent some money in their transport &c &c. and dont
want to lose this nor the labor

I think I shall go home next month as I had proposed. Then
I can judge better what the damage is Besides I am getting
nearly or quite out of some very necessary article. My stock
of clothing is becoming very much reduced. My portfolio is
going rapidly. I may make it serve a few weeks longer
and that will be all it can do. My press boards are seeming
much the worse for wear. My microscope are sadly out of
order. I have yet linsey knives &c. & I find here several
reams of paper left here which with that I brought
will serve I bot[illegible] time in the eastern end
of the island. If I should return here I will resort again
to horses. It is more commodious & cheaper. I spent more
money coming here from Havana than I should have paid out
traveling on horseback (in six months)

Oh Today I went to the pond but could hardly find it. Part
has been cut down & the rest burned and my fine botanizing ground
ruined. But I gathered a few things for examination and to
dry. I am satisfied that it will hardly pay to stay long here
and I may come home earlier than I first intended. Till then
I am as ever

Yours truly

Charles Wright

STEAMSHIP 10

Prof. Asa Gray,
Cambridge,
Mass.

Monte Verde May 12th 1867

My Dear Dr

A few days ago I came upon a noble individual of Bicca scandens Wm — a male plant and it brings vividly to mind the appearance of the first one I found which was of the other sex. The plant in question is about six inches thick near the root and sends out irregular branches as it struggles about toward the tops of the trees which it seems to reach. I could not measure it but I hardly doubt that it is one hundred feet long. A character which has not been noted I believe but which specimens of this plant will well show is the distichous arrangement of the branchlets not noticeable I think in the other species seen by me. I dont know what the specific name of Bicca distichia indicates.

Yesterday I found a Goetzia which I can hardly doubt is a new species. The most striking tho' not essential character is its size — a slender tree full ten inches thick toward the ground and fifty or sixty feet high I should think. I climbed to the lowest branches full thirty feet I imagine for specimens. The other species I know only as a bush. The leaves (fr. mem.) are much alike but I dont find the disk around the ovary base which is conical and much larger than the ovary itself. Then I find but one & two ovules in the cells. The stigma is not strictly capitate rather conical or pyramidal bi-sulcate. The firm yellow corolla same as G. amoena Lyr.

21 24 The other day I came upon a bush of Befaria racemosa Lyr. and now that I have seen both after being so deeply interested in the search of Richard's species the characters are quite clear. The difficulty with me was I took Pichetia 3-natu

to be one of the species and I can yet hardly believe they ought to be so far separated as they are in the new Gen. Plant. I found also more of Plumbothallis subroseidos Lindl which seems to have been scantily collected before.

22nd Yesterday I went on a long ramble over my old hunting grounds away beyond the pinal & got back just in time to escape a thorough ducking — for it rains now every day & none of your April showers neither beginning sometimes before midday and sometimes continuing till night. I got a new Salvia somewhat shrubby. fl. scarlet (cal. but slightly colored) like, but smaller than a very common sp. in cult. here. Also a new Zamania L. elliptica, mihi. leaves exactly elliptical rounded equally at both end & rather short racemes.

Just where the Pinal creek tumbles over a high bluff at several different times I have gathered a little Stelis never however more than one or two specimens at a time. These I suppose you have tucked away, all of them, in your herb. finding them so scant in each parcel and nothing has been reported on them. S. ophioglossoides grows abundantly here also but is two or three times larger in all its parts. This varies much in color from greenish yellow to dark red. The smaller one (of mine and a specimen found yesterday) has red fl. They look so unlike that I can hardly think them the same species although I can find no difference in them but size.

Four orchids have asserted their right of squatter sovereignty, and seem to have established it each in the coppa field. Brickellia variegata Leochilus carinatus Gr. Tonopsis utricularioides Lindl and ~~Thys~~ Acanthes Monterevde G. Reich. All of them abound in the other parts of Mesa Verde which one partly abandoned and growing up to grass & bushes. The coppa trees look sickly & old and are covered with an abundant coating of moss likewise with Tillandsias. Orchids &c.

I have been hoping and rather expecting to receive from you some further particulars about the damaged plants, but as some time has elapsed now since you reported briefly their condition I suspect you have got my later letters advising you not to write to me again as the day of my return would be so uncertain — sooner or later according to circumstances.

31st I'm going to finish this long rambling epistle. I have found several additional specimens of the little Stelis all very uniform in size & color (fl. pk.) but besides this I have now a very distinct sp. with larger fl. and the sepals pubescent on the inside so that it will fall into Lindley's section Barbata. Unfortunately I have yet but a single specimen — with a good number of fl. however. I have also a new Acranthes. I don't know when I got before Lagetta linteraria, Lam. but yesterday I found two bushes of it (sim fl.) so that it seems generally diffused tho' nowhere common. Mr. Buisson is going to cut down a piece of wood soon not just here but a league or more away and if I mistake not on the northern watershed of the island. I hope I may find something new or valuable if not new.

No chance of getting home is yet presented, but it is probable that the steamer Yakobi will be in Cuba about the 20th and it is likely I may return in her if I meet with no opportunity before — or I may stay longer if I have success in collecting & it promises to continue.

There has been but one day this month without rain if I mistake not and more of your drizzle. It is now (P.M.) coming down good fashion. It began early today & made me hurry to get in my papers sprinkling them a little. Then came the sun again & I dried them well. But orchid Bromeliads &c I sweat in the oven. Otherwise I believe they would rot. It is excessively damp. It is a blessed thing that the water

can run off readily otherwise Cuba would be one enormous mud hole. I would like to have a pluviometer just to know how much rain falls here. No more at present

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Cambridge Nov 23d 68

Dear Dr.

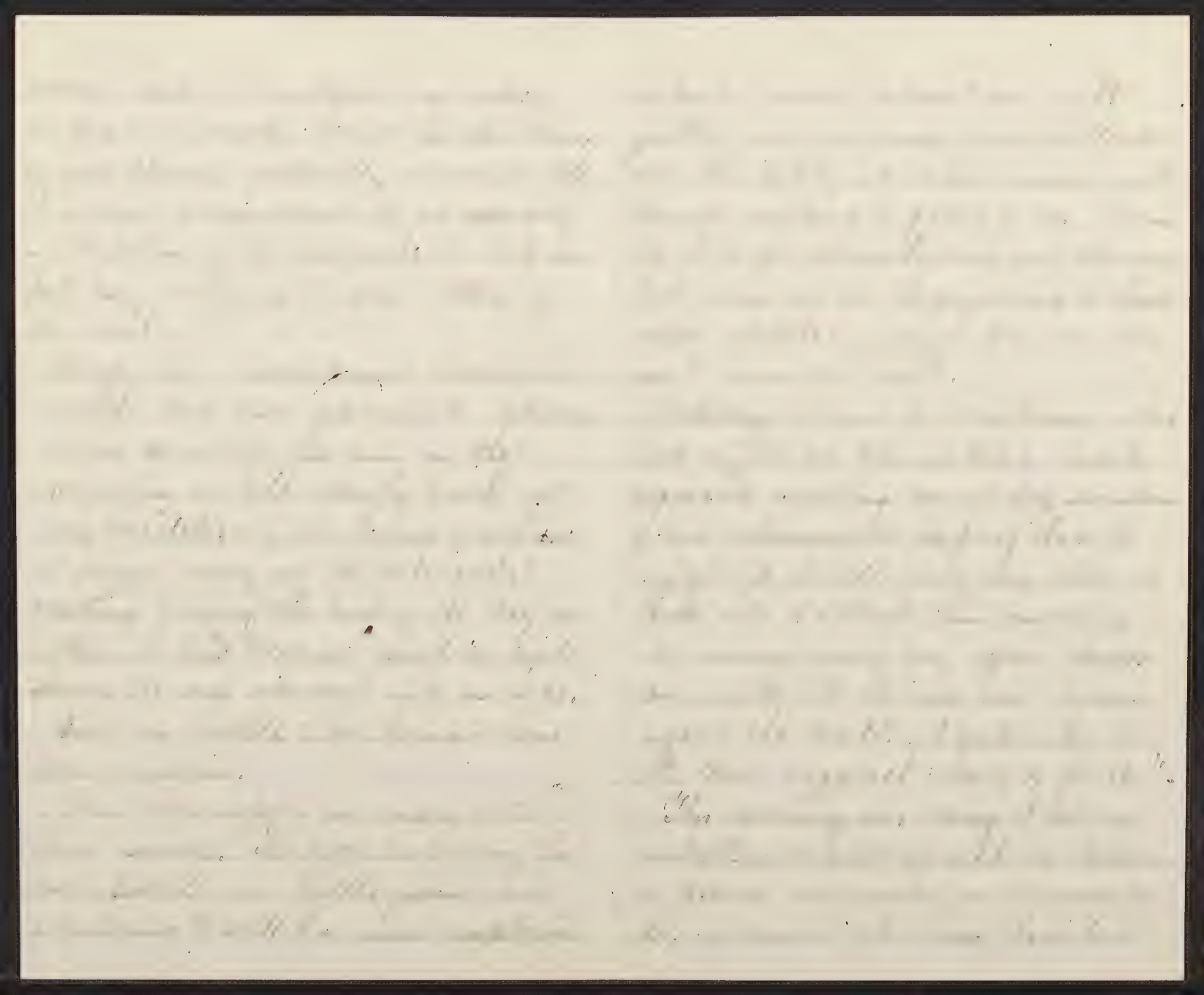
Done distributing, and now packing up in a hurry to get off before Thanksgiving. Fingers sore with raffine tying up bundles. I made 14 sets besides yours, Dew, & Lanvalle. The sets run thus 2250 (call it) 2200, 2025, 1715 & Torrey 1550, 1460, 1330, 1275, 1165 960, 780, 750, 660, 620. Dew 560 or (call it) 500. for I put in some odd numbers when specimens were uncommon and particularly nice. The parcel will go to Boston in a day or two.

After mentioning Brit. Mus. Anderson, Reichenbach, St. Petersburg as wanting the novelties for which I have made no provision you write "As to residual collections I would save some few and send the rest to Reichenbach &c". Now I want to sell some here if possible; I believe it is. Mr Scudder talks encouragingly. Eaton promises to use his influence & I think I shall write to Baird asking him to try & find me purchasers, (have done it) I was depending on Mann after I went to Cuba & now I must look to my business myself. And under this change of circumstances I see not how I can return there at least right away. In my life I never realised so vividly the perplexity of the ass between the two piles of grass. I want to go to Cuba & I want to stay here. Ambition says go; prudence says stay. If I go I shall spend from the start; If I stay I

I may earn something or hold my own ~~or~~ spend less. I shall at any rate. O! if Mama had gone at my suggestion it might have saved him. & released me.

23d Olivers queries are at hand and already answered. I did not before suspect that it was brought from Africa to Cuba but now that the question is raised there are circumstances attending its occurrence that favor the belief of its foreign origin.

Tomorrow I shall clean up the Berbanum (except poor Mama's room which is in dire disorder besides buried in dust - but I dare not touch any thing) and on Wednesday home - just in time for Thanksgiving.



Meyptae. Several Miconias or Clidemias. Two or three Jussiaea (one new to me) A Rhetandra? A Monordica? Angurea Melothria (seen). Some Passifloras. Hydrocotyle umbellata? A single Dorantha. (seen) Phor. latifol? Some common Psychotrias. Two Palicoureas. a Cafesboo? (new to me). Gynzalea. Heamelia patens. Rhione. Chironeca. Diodias or Borreras (2 or 3). A few weedy Compos. & one or two with a newish look Tupia ensifolia? Isotoma. One Mezoneuron. Wallenia I saw something calling to mind Theophrasta — not the Cuban one (not fl. nor fr.) Cainito. A Sideroxylon Dentes lignum? and another Apocyn quite new to me (few & unexpect.) Gonsteronia. Cucurbitacea (white & red). One Schrophs? or it may be Labiat. Several Solanae (seen) Cestrum (collected) Cresentia cucurbit. Three Rubiaceae all new to me. Several Piperaceas two or three new to me. Convolvulus. Cordia (flag very large) Tournefortias (seen) Several weedy Labiates. One or two Lantanas Two Lithocarpon. Clerodendron fragrans (seen). Anthurium. Philodendron (seen) Dieffenbachia? Four Palms Oreod. regia Cocos. A Bactris? & Acrocomia? Two Commelynas & a Callisia? Several grasses — one paspalum unfamiliar. Some common Cyperaceae one sterin one Kyllingia unfamiliar by the breadth of its involucral leaves & Similax. A Rogaina? a Dioscorea. A pretty good specimen of pine-apple. Heliconia. Few orchids among them a pretty Bletia. A Costus. A Selaginella & a few ferns.

As Samana the land rises abruptly into

Steamship Tennessee
off Espada Point Jan 31/71

Dear Dr

We have done up Samana & are now on our way for Santo Domingo City.

I give you a few notes on the flora thus far seen which differs much from that of Cuba & I'll take them up by families after Grisebach's Arrangement. Two or three ubiquitous Anonas. Miscampsis Parira. A Hyptis? or perhaps Dysoptes — not a Casearia, at least, recognized. A few ubiquitous Euphorbs. Drymaria cordata. One or two Amaranths. A Pisonia Some weedy Mallow-worts. Hibiscus tiliaceus Guazuma, Triumfetta (2). Corchorus siliquosus Montrichia. Gouania. A vitis new to me with fl. & fr. Calopthyllum. Marcgraavia. A Byrsonima? & Banisteria? Serjania, Cupania, Schmidelia Cominia. Melia. Picramnia, Hippocratea Decostis (seen) some pileas. Tovera (?) Rousselia? Cocoloba uvifera & another sp. Several Piperaceae most of them look new to me or not familiar — two or three Peperomias look familiar. Bursera, Convolvulus. Rhus? Mangifera (of course) Crotalaria (2) Indigofera Aeschynomene. Desmodium Rhynchosia Centrosema (2?) Vernonias? Tigna, Phaseolus, Hoecastaphyllum, a cassia. Entada. Acacia (prickly) Pithecolobium? Hostella triandra? Prunus (seen) No

ss. Parry laid in a good stock of paper for driers very bibulous but fragile, thick and of a size inconvenient for so doing with economy. I miss my strong & light kind for carrying to the woods in the pocket of his 10 a.m.
We are now running along the south shore of the island and may get to an anchor by night or before. It is an open roadstead and the scientific corps is to be placed on shore. We will work with greater economy of time. We anchored just at night. The sea tosses small vessels about in a most unpleasant way and our large ships dont lie like a sleeping infant.

Feby 1 Today I took a long ramble outside of the city, and I suppose I must have walked some six or eight miles and in all this travel I was out of sight of Zamia integrifolia (except in the city) one minute I am not aware of. Without question it is the most common of all vegetables within the district traveled over descending almost to the seaside. In Cuba it is rare & hardly seen but on or near the tops of the hills. Can they be the same species? There was a report that very broken hills — no mangrove swamps — and level plains — one marshy flat which might have given more peculiar plants had we all been waders like me. Parry didn't as much & his assistant less unless it be windward & in this he can beat Dr Bolan. Parry came on board with a bad cold & cough which he has only now shaken off. His assistant is a gardener & is more intent (& not too much so) on gathering seeds & roots than on making specimens.

I have not been quite satisfied with my location in a mess. We are distributed among the different messes of the officers. The commissioners & some others it may be mess with the Commander on the main deck. Below them is another mess whose organization I know little about but it consists mainly (as I suppose) of newspapermen & their attendants. On the birth deck is the wardroom mess the middy's mess and the various forward officers' messes — with one of these I was placed while all the boys waiters &c nearly are in the wardroom & above while with one or two exceptions I am the oldest of all the attaches of the commission. It was a mere accident no doubt & perhaps it was wisely ordered so as I can better adapt

perhaps to rough it than said boys loafers &c. We dont live so well as they do in the wardroom & I miss my coffee & only just now have I found out how & when to get it. But it was my fault or neglect. I could have gone to the wardroom as I did once or twice but I was reluctant to be snubbed by the wardroom boys & so I have missed for the most part my morning cup of coffee. My digestive organs have worked any thing but satisfactorily and I begin to doubt whether it will be wise to stay over. While I have the bleeding piles every day I feel vigorous & nearly well yet I can not shake off the unpleasant impression that it ought not to be thus. If I had started well prepared & had some fixed plan of work in a definite field I might settle down into a somewhat regular way of life & at length revert to a normal habit of body but I cant from former experience sanguinely expect such a result. I haven't besides such paper as I want & will be a good while before I can get any. I know little of the expenses of traveling inland or of the comforts & conveniences to be had when there. If I were to conclude to make any considerable stay I should expect that somebody you or foreign botanists or our Government or all would back me up strongly with moral & pecuniary support. Otherwise it would be unwise in me to embark in such a labor. After a few days examination of the vicinity of San Domingo city I shall be better able to decide what to do. I am told that we go to Portauprince and afterwards to Cape Haitien; here to coal for the homeward voyage. So if I remain it would seem that I must leave the commission at San Domingo city—so that I will be cast loose among strangers with a quantity of green-backs and some twenty dollars short in gold. These difficulties about money may doubtless be smoothed down. Viewed in the most favorable lights the project looks far from pleasing and if my present frame of mind continues you may expect me home with the ships. And yet I have no reason to be dissatisfied with my work thus far. I will get some things new to your Herb. if not absolutely

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

while the Commissioners ~~shall be~~ should be ~~here~~ in session here with the Dominican officials the ship ~~will~~ would go to Caldera Bay to the westward for a more quiet anchorage. I hoped it would be so as it would enable us to divide our force & cover more ground. Now I hear we are to roll about here all the time the Commission is engaged in their researches. Well I will see & pump some persons on shore who may be able to inform me about the facilities or difficulties of labor in the interior for there I must go if I am to do any thing of much importance.

Feby 2 Today we've remained on board drying our plants. Tomorrow I hope to go ashore early for a long walk. Dr Parry will go later after changing some of the still damper plants. The Nantasket goes to St. Thomas tomorrow with our letters. ~~I~~ I finish wishing you comfort in the old with apples while I suck oranges & grind cane

Yours Cordially
Charles Wright

Santo Domingo City
Feby 5th 1871

Dear Dr

I have made two pretty creditable suburban excursions and the results of them are such that I feel by no means despondent as to what further researches may reveal. It is now decided that I accompany a small party across the island to Puerto Plata — from the South to North. I doubt if I will be able to collect largely on account of limited means of carriage and want of sufficient time to dry. But I will be able to tell what may probably be effected with more time and better facilities for collecting. I am strongly encouraged to remain by Prof. Gabb the Government Geologist who will aid me with his influence which is not small. I meet here also my old Matanzas friend Dr. Sebastian Alfredo de Morales who kindly invites me to make his house my home when I am here.

At a meeting of the Commission yesterday, I made the observation that I might think it would be for the benefit of botanical Science to remain behind when the steamer returns home and that I would only ask for a recommendation that I should have a free passage home in any Government vessel that might come here. Objection was made that there might be no such vessel here again in five years — a quibble. Ben Wade couldn't see the use of gathering so many weeds. &c &c. It seems to me that the Commissioners care little for any branch of science that dont have some regard to the precious metals, coal or logwood (Mr White has already a Mahogany tree of his own on board). I suppose they can have no reasonable objection to my remaining. If they have & I think it best to stay I shall overrule it. In this state of mind I set out in a few days for the North side. When I have made this journey I may conclude to go home. And now I leave it to you whether or not you will send me at a venture two or three reams of my favorite collecting paper. Of such as will make dries Parry will leave behind a plenty. and this I can use for all purposes till the other comes

r be able to borrow of Dr Parry enough to assist me for a while perhaps till my return home. otherwise I will let you know my wants & how to meet them

I have made the acquaintance of a Mr. Shoemaker — a settler here from our country engaged in farming & manufacture or preparation of textile substances. He seems a liberal-minded man & offers his assistance and hospitality. He corresponds with Mr Capron on agricultural subjects & sends him parcels of the productions of the country

7th It rained hard all yesterday afternoon We say by way of joking at the unexpected frequency of the showers that this is the wet season & the rainy one will come in by-and-by. To judge by Cuba this should be the dry season but this year it has rained every day here or in other directions. and various

With regard to money which I have mentioned above I had no time to change my paper into gold. Dr. Parry lent me 20.00 dols about half of which is now gone. On his departure he will doubtless give me gold for my paper & perhaps may be able & willing to lend me all I will need unless I find

2

it is a heavy very friable paper and quite unfit to carry in the portfolio if better can be had. Send to Spofford & Bros 29 Broadway N. York to be addressed to L. M. Leybe Santo Domingo City (for Prof. Gabb) Coming to the Government Geologist it will enter free of duty.

At Samana I found a fuscia that attracted my attention. You know I took some interest in the Cuban species. This had a stem thicker than common and strongly ribbed by the decurrent bases of the petioles (for the leaf is narrowed at base) Here I found a Stigmaphyllon with roundish leaves pretty strongly sinuated on the edge and a very pretty Portlandia with scarlet flowers and leaves comparable to those of a fuchsia. Quite a number of other things new to me you will see I hope if you wait patiently. Of course a place like this from which all the timber was long ago cut down to make charcoal in place of which a new growth has sprung up is not likely to yield much of novelty especially in the season when there are fewest flowers.

As to money I shall probably have

Dr. Gray

long my stay much beyond what I now contemplate

Wednesday 8th Feby Preparing most of the day for our excursion across the island tomorrow — making purchases &c. Had another talk with Morales. I wish you could send him something at your command. I believe I left my few copies of the Catalogue as well as the Revision locked up in some of my trunks or drawers or I would ask you to send him any thing you have relative to Cuban Botany. He has Griseback. I have just got the amount of my outlays little over Twenty dollars. This will be enough & more till I get to Porto Plata. I have a little specie in currency for which Parry will give gold when the vessel sails. I take but little paper but I hope to save some good plants and see what may be done on my return. This is the first day entirely pleasant & without rain since our arrival. I must finish now & pack up

Yours ever
Charles Wright

P.S. In my hurry at starting I carried off the key of the Herbarium. I have given it to Dr Parry that he may send it to you if I stay over. C.W.

Wethersfield, Sept. 6th 1?? + 4th.

Dear Dr Gray:

Please accept my thanks for a copy [illegible] "Two Plant Lists" which came a few days ag[illegible] home. I trust you and [illegible] pleasant excursion. I hope to hear from you when you [illegible] through the mass of correspondence [illegible]

I haven't found time yet for that "visit" Dr. Torrey [illegible] me about, but it's been dig, dig, dig, and the [illegible] just begun. But I have succeeded in keeping the grave [illegible] the hoe corps measurably clean. I may [illegible] if it had not been for one here would have been a crop of weeds rather than a more useful one, I fear. I have worked really one day and between whiles. Besides the pull back in the spring caused by our hired boy's accident — breaking his arm — the first of August my brother fell sick with fever and ague when I had to stay home and run the machine. About a month of his pretty lost in his running down and creeping up. We had the good luck to hire just then a very good [illegible] But don't be cast down keeps the women talking, you know. But with all the bad luck to contend with and the weeds, the result of neglect, to fight, we have been successful in securing [illegible] in good condition. Our roots were somewhat [illegible] and still need much picking over to prepare them for [illegible] work I do nights and rainy days & other odd moments. Potatoes promise a small yield. The [illegible] Hyacinth otter [illegible] well. [illegible]

By two weeks absence of the rains we lost in Spring some 150 or 200 Dormant and we suffer a little yet

cider we could have a long "big drunk" if we chose. We are now eating some pretty good pears of which our few trees bear us as large a burden as they can well sustain. For the first time in many years we've had one tree-load of quite good peaches and we have another similar or larger load coming on if the tree don't break down under its burden. If I were to suggest sending you some of our apples you might remind me of "sending coals to Newcastle"—the fruit is so abundant everywhere, I believe. You are abundantly welcome if I had the time to gather, pack and forward it. I have already stored a few bushels for our own use or to sell—if we can get anything for them. But my brother is no market-man—hates peddling truck by retail, particularly.

We've had frequent and plentiful rains all through the season and we are now in the midst of a northeaster which does, as all, it our convenience; or, at least, we think so. We want to prepare a piece of ground and sow rye upon it, which I fear can not; now, be done for some days. We have some corn cut which must dry in such weather. Two fields of corn & one of potatoes remain to be gathered and housed (with some tops & stalks from the former) & a few pumpkins and squashes and our crops will then be secured. Then there will be a hundred little or great jobs to be done in preparation for winter. From the above you may judge I don't suffer from ennui.

And this brings me to say a few words of our past and possible future relations. My residence in Cambridge & my connection with the Bot. Gdn, Herbarium & yourself have been particularly pleasant to me and I feel a reluctance to give them up. But I have got to the impression, from several remarks, that you would like to make a change if you could find [illegible] could fill my place and at the same time assume other duties which I was unwilling to do or felt myself unfitted for. I don't know but you have found such a man in Mr. [illegible]. I shall miss (two) the pay I received monthly. Here I get only my [illegible] and keeping, but I have the society of my brothers. I should miss, also, very much the scientific & literary privileges and advantages I there enjoyed. Yet here we are not quite destitute. We have our daily evening paper, besides which we take three or four weekly and four monthly publications of different kinds. These give us a considerable variety and entertaining mental food and subjects for [illegible] discussion. Please let me know your wishes, frankly.

I've done nothing in botany beyond drying a few fungi, which the bugs may have eaten, for I've had ~~not~~ no time to preserve them. Popular Science Monthly makes schoolboy work of your calendar. Have you any more of Bentham & Hooker's new Genera Plantarum?

The Bolander Plants lie piled away in the barn. I have it [illegible] in. Please don't tell Brewer of it. I am very sorry they have been crowded out of the way. But I hope to get to them soon. I hope you'll write me before long, as I want to know what plans to lay out for the future, which I can not well do till I am sure whether or not I shall go to spend much time, again, in Cambridge. However it may be, perhaps you will at some time have a job or jobs for me to do, which may make it worth the while to spend a part of the winter or other time, when farm work don't drive, in doing it or them. I would like now & then a job to earn a little ready money.

Beside those products of our farm already mentioned we've had
as a piece of luck came in season all the garden "Sauce" we have
had — corn & peas, beans and sweet corn for succotash,
& now, how last love them we have something in tomatoes. Cucumbers
were also enjoyed also for such as eat them. I seldom or never taste
them. Now we have, for us, a plentiful supply of watermelons
but we have they generally do not thrive so well as in many other
places. Today (it is now after dinner) we had a large watermelon which
gave us as much as we could well eat. Milk is a large
article in my diet. Nearly all summer I enjoy corn-cakes & lobbered
milk with sugar & cream for supper (now & then bread and sweet milk) bowl of bread & milk
eaten as you know about nightfall — 6—7 P.M. — Sometimes I
would use honey in place of sugar. Our bees haven't done very well
& nine swarms last fall but four survived the winter and one
of these swarmed. We've taken (honey from one hive) this summer and that
was done when my brother was quite unwell — otherwise he
would probably have taken more. If I remain at home I
shall take more interest or a more active part in the branch
of rural labor than I have heretofore. I love honey as
well as the next one.

The enclosed for inquiry from Grundlach will you do me
the kindness & enclose it & put in the P.O. office or mail it in the
manner as most convenient. I suppose the Professor has not yet
got home yet.

Where is Parry? I've not had a word from him since he left
the spring or early summer.

Very truly yours

Charles Wright

P.S. Please remember me to Mrs. Lyon & Prof. Guernsey & friends &c &c.

I recently for I to say that during the growing heavy work I was not
troubled with dyspepsia and last month I had dyspeptic spells but I am much better
now — much like my old self again

POSTAL CARD.

WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Mr. Serena Nutter

Cambridge

Mass

" 207 Lycopsis a slight mistake in the greek line. + p. 6

" 296 L. linariaefolia "the long upper lip entire"

" L. vulgaris, var. subpicta Type examined at [illegible]

" L. stricta

" ? magnata "which at [illegible] "

" Echium plantagineum "= Echium plantagineum."

2nd line "add for Victoria"

In Typical plants Dr. A. Gray has a hook with about 9 barbs and plantain grass leaves 2 cms. long. Some Victorian grass leaves are like this but the common plantain is broad leaved.

" Plantago [illegible] "rugae" Transversely rugose ?

" 318 Gentianaceae. 5th line. varieties

" 5th line varieties

" 7th line last (Corolla ?)

" Erythraea [illegible] "

" " " "... obscurely transverse, rugae." Transversely rugose ?

Wethersfield. Conn. [illegible]

Dear Mr [illegible]

I have n't [illegible] you for some time.
But first let me thank you for the [illegible]
[illegible] and Hidcote.

Now I have some queries, criticisms perhaps to
offer. First how my Kalmia is in full flower I
see yesterday! And I have found another larger
patch of it. In my note-book I have entered
that it is a shrub 4 feet high. I have entered
the tendency is very [illegible]. Blackberries are
in (I have eaten them very small) and blackberries are
not in flower or nearly so. Red raspberries I suppose
are [illegible] nearly gone. Rubus laciniatus I only saw
late flowers but the fruit will be nice soon.

I thought I had sent a note to Bowditch explanation
& recension — but I send you the two plants as I found
them — Vr 2 is very common everywhere Vr 2 I found only
here & there — then the plants in considerable numbers.
Vr 2 is annual undoubtedly and would be grown [illegible]
them, but the plant answers to the description of Vr
crassum. Vr 2½ is [illegible] for I get lots of the seed
I now send almost before the pods are off the ground.
Your [illegible] entirely follows the manual. I like your description
I agree with you in the main but it is less than
both annual — & it may be true in that latitude
& is probably true here sometimes. Wood says about the
same thing as you. Bless you all and [illegible]

Please disentangle this snarl and make things clear to me if you can. If the types have not [illegible] make them [illegible]. All these years I have been in a muddle about it. Because Ten. and others did not think it worth the while to do them justice. In your Edition of 1856 they seem to me to be badly mixed.

No 3 is Venetian asperula. I have a remark to make, not to its habitat here. I have never found it in cultivated ground, nor is it uncommon. The only locality, where it grows here I have seen it on the crest of hills bounding the Conn. Riv. valley, in bare (cracked) rocks or in a very thin stratum of earth covering them.

Galeopsis: In your generic character you say of the upper plume "narrowly linear". Now I question linear alone has been enough? Put yourself in a geometrical frame of mind and consider that a line has no breadth. Now let me ask what you think should be meant by linear? Look at your figure of the plume and tell me if they are narrowly linear? Now I have always held to the narrowness, if any, of the plume as one of specific importance. I see with sharply triangular achenia of the Ladanum. I don't like these particularly qualifying words — especially if they tell lies.

I find in your herbarium a form of Asclepias Cornuti with two umbels. I have found several more this summer and one with three umbels. One I received from [illegible] with one umbel and the umbels were [illegible] one was generally smaller. Still it would have been well (methinks, to have indicated this occurrence of abnormality. And it may be commoner than we think. The plant does not grow here. I never saw it only [illegible] a distance of some miles westward or southward. It seems to prefer poor sandy soils.

Nov 5 I found below Middletown, all dried up as you see it. Probably you can tell me what it is.

No 6 tells its own story as far as the name is concerned. It seems to me rather unlikely to be either of your two species.

In the street of Conway two manufacturing firms [illegible] work (no) with large evaporators [illegible] long or more slightly curved at base. Search made it not to my satisfaction.

Can [illegible] which puts me if it is either of the five in Ten. Fl. the dark spot in centre of the stipules.

I have taken to excess with such zeal as would have satisfied you in the 40 Cuban days gathering every flower I discover I go. I have been and am examining them from time to time. But of course I must help you as my instruments are not of the first order. If now I had specimens of the same I have from time to time to give you for James's herb they would help me much. I guess right. I probable they would [illegible] your collection. Can you do anything for me? If [illegible] I would receiving [illegible] with the hope of participation of [illegible]

Etheridge [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

121, Charles St

Dear D. Gray

I was at Fernick a short time ago and found a abundance Drosera in flower. As you may not have a plant near you as good specimen I send you some of the young (seedling) plants of Drosera pygmaea. Drosera pygmaea has rotate stipitate leaves. Drosera [illegible] has peltate leaves. Drosera pygmaea grows in wet places. Drosera [illegible] grows in dry sandy places. Drosera pygmaea has a scape from 1 to 4 inches high. Drosera [illegible] has a scape from 4 to 8 inches high. Drosera pygmaea has a capsule from 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in length & thickness and the capsule of the Drosera [illegible] is much smaller but they are alike in all the rest. Drosera pygmaea has 5 petals. Drosera [illegible] has 5 petals. Drosera pygmaea has 5 stamens. Drosera [illegible] has 5 stamens. Drosera pygmaea has 3 styles. Drosera [illegible] has 3 styles. Drosera pygmaea has 3 stigmas. Drosera [illegible] has 3 stigmas. Drosera pygmaea has 3 valves to the capsule. Drosera [illegible] has 3 valves to the capsule. Drosera pygmaea has 3 cells to the capsule. Drosera [illegible] has 3 cells to the capsule. Drosera pygmaea has many seeds in the capsule. Drosera [illegible] has many seeds in the capsule. Drosera pygmaea has seeds with a reticulated testa. Drosera [illegible] has seeds with a reticulated testa. Drosera pygmaea has a perennial root. Drosera [illegible] has a perennial root. Drosera pygmaea has a fibrous root. Drosera [illegible] has a fibrous root. Drosera pygmaea has a root stock. Drosera [illegible] has a root stock. Drosera pygmaea has a rosette of leaves. Drosera [illegible] has a rosette of leaves. Drosera pygmaea has a petiole. Drosera [illegible] has a petiole. Drosera pygmaea has a lamina. Drosera [illegible] has a lamina. Drosera pygmaea has a glandular lamina. Drosera [illegible] has a glandular lamina. Drosera pygmaea has a glandular petiole. Drosera [illegible] has a glandular petiole. Drosera pygmaea has a scape. Drosera [illegible] has a scape. Drosera pygmaea has a raceme of flowers. Drosera [illegible] has a raceme of flowers. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate scape. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate scape. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate raceme. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate raceme. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate pedicel. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate pedicel. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate calyx. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate calyx. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate corolla. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate corolla. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate androecium. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate androecium. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate gynoecium. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate gynoecium. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate fruit. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate fruit. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate seed. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate seed. Drosera pygmaea has a bracteate embryo. Drosera [illegible] has a bracteate embryo. 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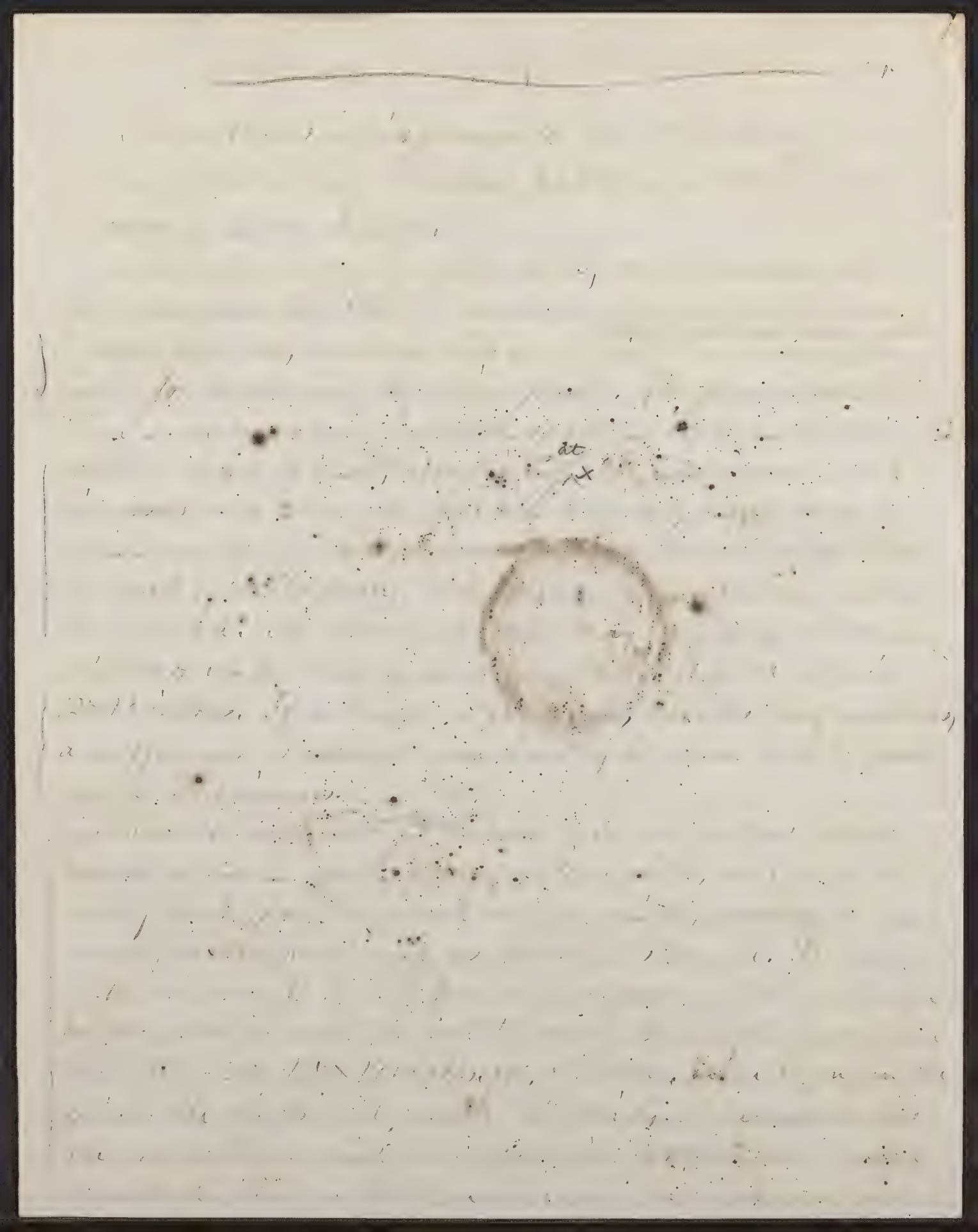
Last letter from C. Miller
who died. Aug. 11 1885.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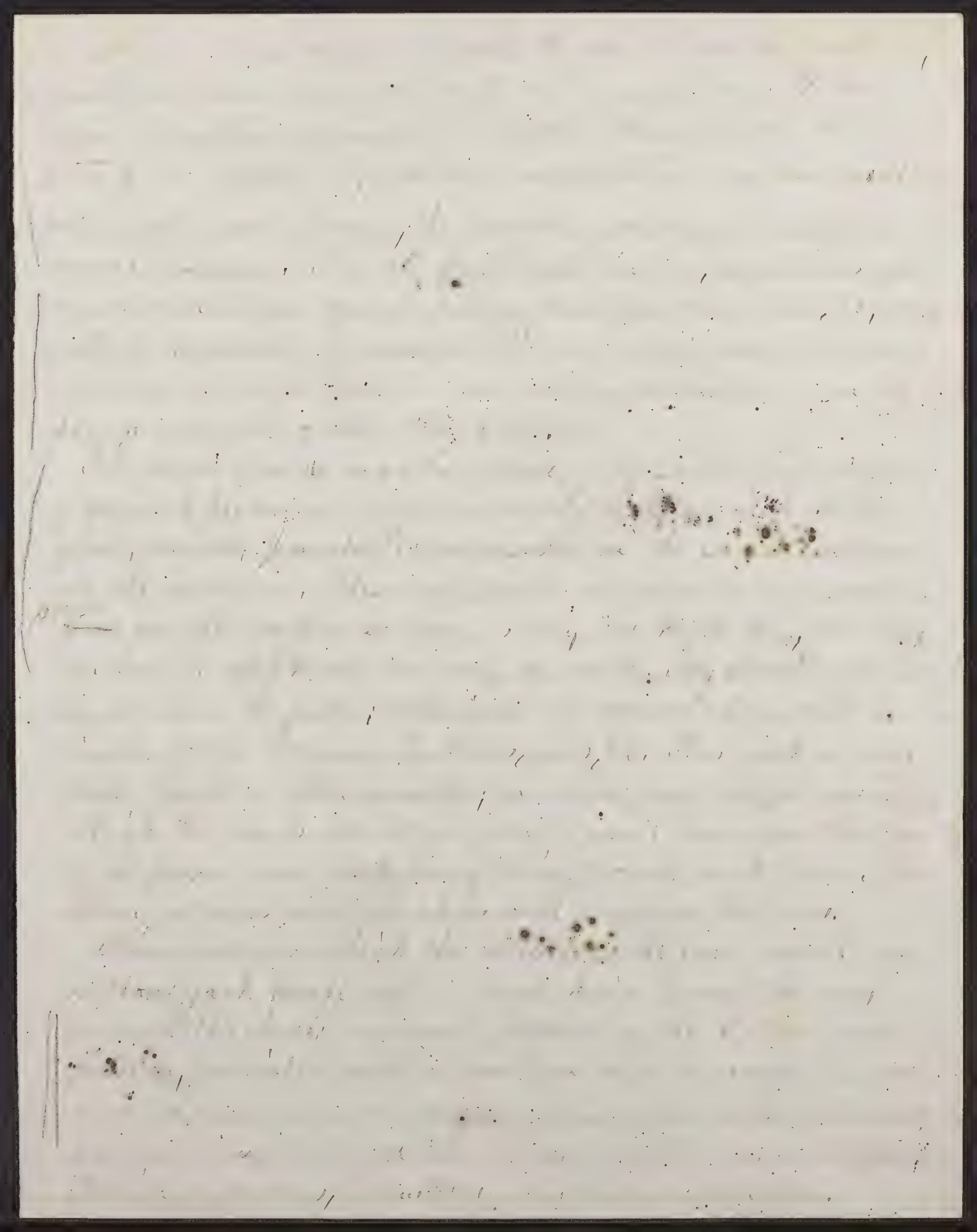

(I have not tried it much)

in boiling water is recommended in drying heaths and other plants whose leaves are apt to disarticulate. Sometimes it may be inconvenient to use boiling water. There is a method which I have proved excellent for Begonias, Peperomias, Pothoses, Palmas, also for orchids with membranaceous leaves, Habenaria, Microchilus, large flowers of Cereus, &c. Take one of the thin press-boards already spoken of, place upon it a number of sheets containing these plants, one upon another, without driers between—place upon these a few driers & tie up the bundle. Invert it and expose the black press-board to the direct rays of the sun. This soon becomes quite hot and communicates its heat to the plants beneath it, partially scalding them. Leave the bundle thus two or three hours and put them again in press with fresh driers. Plants thus treated require more frequent changing at first, for they part pretty rapidly with their abundant moisture; but they dry soon and the leaves do not disarticulate badly and the flowers retain their colors as well as when dried by other methods. For flaccid plants such as Commelyna this plan of killing them is better than that of putting them in hot water as the leaves, after immersion, become still more flaccid & the difficulty of laying them in press & arranging the leaves naturally is increased.

Still another mode of killing these succulent plants I have followed with success. Pass a hot flat-iron over the sheets of specimens, especially the joints of the stem where the leaves join it, avoiding as much as possible the flowers. Then pressing them as before the any rapidly; but the first changes should be made at shorter intervals, lest fermentation take place and the plants become discolored.

Fungi. Agaricoid fungi, being moist, very apt to require careful manipulation. But they can be dried very well with the tin press-board. Put the fungi, like other plants, within a sheet of paper — and this on one of the press-boards. Put the other over them and lay them in the sun, without pressure. The upper board soon becomes hot and expels the water from the plants, causing it to condense on the lower one. Withdraw now the lower board and put the upper (hot) one in its place. Put the other on top, the wet side up. This soon dries and becomes hot in its turn. Repeat the operation every half hour or oftener. Or, if the plants be not very heavy, the whole may be dexterously turned over and the wet board being now on top, invert it, exposing the wet side to the sun. Large specimens of Agaricus, Boletus, &c dry in a few days and are not so pressed that the delicate parts become a confused mass. To make specimens of Agaricus and like plants, they should be accompanied by notes, describing the color, the form, texture, smooth or fibrous or pubescent, the pileus thick or thin, the stipe solid or tubular, smooth or pilose, equal or tapering, the volva, the gills or the hymenium, whether few or many, free or adnate to the stipe, broad or narrow, equal or unequal. Before drying some specimens should be placed on paper (of two colors if practicable) to collect the spores, the color of which should be recorded. If only one color be used, it may be of the same color as the spores and they might with difficulty be seen. They fall copiously and soon from Agaricus.

almost Hemp dry soon and give little trouble. They should be sought every where, on all kinds of dead and decaying vegetable matter. Many are very minute, appearing like specks of dirt or little black or brown or yellow specks or excrescencie. [redacted], When dried they should be poisoned with a solution of Corrosive sublimate & they are soon eaten by insects.

Seaweed. The small and delicate kind may be collected in bottles of salt water. the coarser in the portfolio or in a sack of any kind. Before putting them in press, dip them in fresh water to free them from the salt which might cause them to deliquesce. Those which do not adhere to the paper may be dried like other plants. For the delicate species which stick, take pieces of writing paper and wet them, put the specimen in clean fresh water, thrust a piece of the wet paper beneath the specimen, which, in the water, will take on its natural form, raise the paper gently and put it within a sheet of the specimen paper. Repeat until the sheet is filled. Put over the specimens a piece of cotton cloth (old shirt) to prevent them from sticking to the upper leaf of the sheet. Put in press. They dry soon. When dry raise the cloth carefully from the specimens.

Letter of Charles Wright,
Still to be consulted for
Fungi, Algae, Mosses &c —

Rec'd either late in
1880 — or early
in 1881

W. Wm